PETER MACKAY OUT AS ACOA MINISTER, PG 5

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Celebrity pg 26



Bullock latest celeb to aid Haiti

Benefit pulls in big local acts

HAITI An impressive lineup of local musicians has been announced for the Halifax For Haiti benefit concert featuring DRUM! next month.

Joel Plaskett, Classified, Lennie Gallant, Bruce Gouthro, Christina Martin and Charlie A'Court are among 14 acts now confirmed for the Feb. 8 event.



Joel Plaskett

Tickets went on sale yesterday for $20 each. Proceeds go to the Canadian Red Cross in support of its relief efforts in the earthquake-ravaged country.

Tickets are available at all Ticket Atlantic outlets, online at ticketatlantic.com or by phone at 451-1221.

METRO HALIFAX

Moose Lose at home



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Shawinigan Cataractes winger Antoine Houde-Caron scores a first-period goal on Halifax Mooseheads goalie Mathieu Corbeil last night at the Metro Centre. The Cataractes went on to beat the Moose 5-2. More coverage, page 9

'Pumped' to help

Canadian navy arrives in Haiti as humanitarian work begins

PHILIP CROUCHER
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Sailors aboard two Canadian navy ships arrived in Haiti yesterday to start "doing what we do."

"Everyone is pumped," said Lt.-Cmdr. Graham Roberts, who spoke to Metro by phone yesterday afternoon from the HMCS Athabaskan. "There's a lot of destruction and a lot of grief here. But I can tell you everyone is quite motivated to do as much as they can."

Roberts said at first light yesterday the 500 sailors aboard HMCS Athabaskan and HMCS Halifax got down to work to help a country ravaged by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake last week.

He said up to 200 soldiers left the ships and made landfall to participate in what the Canadian military is terming humanitarian service support. Yesterday, that included clearing rubble at a medical facility in Leogane, which is about 64 kilometres southwest of the Haiti capital of Port-au-Prince.

HMCS Athabaskan is docked about one mile off of Leogane, while HMCS Halifax is docked near Jacmel, a town that was cut off from the rest of the country since the devastating earthquake.

Roberts said 78 crew members from HMCS Halifax cleared a Jacmel road yesterday to allow heavy equipment into town and also began working to do the same at the airport.

"Very well," Roberts said when asked how the soldiers have been received by the Haiti people. "There have been no concerns with the crew. They understand we're there to help. They've been very welcoming."

HMCS Halifax and HMCS Athabaskan pulled away from the Halifax dockyards last Thursday. The ships are scheduled to remain in Haiti for at least a month, meaning a lot of long days and hard work ahead for the crew members.

"This is what we train for all the time," Roberts said. "Although we hate to do it for real, this is what we're here for." MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

Supplies and more

- The 500 soldiers aboard HMCS Halifax and HMCS Athabaskan will also aid in search-and-rescue efforts, and distribute clothes, purified water, food, tents, blankets and medical supplies.

Haiti Crisis

Municipal events not going dry

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BOOZE The drinks will continue to flow freely at major municipal events in HRM.

An effort to eliminate alcohol sponsorships and beer tents at family-friendly events organized by the municipality got a frosty reception from regional council yesterday, with more than half of the city's 23 councillors voting to scrap the idea entirely.

As promised, Coun. Gloria McCluskey put forward a motion requesting that staff look into the possibility of banning anything booze-related from events such as Canada Day and Natal Day celebrations, saying such sponsorships send the wrong message to impressionable youngsters.

In the end, there was no discussion on the motion, and it was soundly defeated by a vote of 14-8.

"I said that I would try, but if it failed ... well, then that's it," a clearly frustrated McCluskey said following the meeting. "Obviously they don't understand the implications as they were put forward to me by Dr. Robert Strang (the province's chief public health officer) and other studies and research, or they're not concerned about it."

Revenue

- Some councillors argued scrapping booze advertising would mean tens of thousands of dollars in lost revenue.

News on the Move

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Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

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- Today — Omischl chasing elusive gold, page 10

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SCANLIFE

Local



Michael Bolton tickets going on sale

Grammy Award-winner Michael Bolton, left, is coming to the Halifax Metro Centre on March 19. Bolton has sold over 53 million records worldwide and is touring for his latest release, One World One Love, which is scheduled to be released March 2. Tickets go on sale this Saturday at 9 a.m. and cost between $44.50 and $79.50, plus service charges. Tickets are available at all Ticket Atlantic outlets, online at ticketatlantic.com or by phone at 451-1221. METRO HALIFAX

Beware of fraud when giving: Cops

Haiti Crisis

CHARITY Provincial police are urging those giving to the Haitian relief effort to do it safely.

A release issued yesterday by the Nova Scotia RCMP said there are "scammers" looking to take advantage of the Haiti situation, so exercising caution when donating is paramount.

"We certainly don't want to discourage anyone from making donations, we just want people to be aware of individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions," Insp. Jim MacDougall, officer in charge of financial crime, said in the release.

"Canadians need ... to make sure their money goes to competent relief organizations."

Safety tips include asking the solicitor for the registered charitable tax number of the charity and refusing high-pressure appeals. METRO HALIFAX

HRM principals granted honours

AWARD Two principals from HRM have been chosen among the 32 named for Canada's Outstanding Principals program for 2010.

Debbie Metherall of Rockingstone Heights School and Terry Wadden of Sir John A. Macdonald High School have been chosen as Nova Scotia's only two winners.

The program is in its sixth year and is an initiative of the Learning Partnership, a national not-for-profit organization that champions public education.

The award is presented to principals who have made a measurable difference to their students and communities. METRO HALIFAX

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs It's Called Football welcomes defender Michael Petke for the players' perspective on MLS CBA negotiations



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Chaos at bar leads to arrests

Pair accused of multiple robberies, assaulting patron

PAUL MCLEOD
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Halifax Regional Police say a verbal dispute turned into a small crime spree early yesterday morning at Menz Bar on Gottingen Street.

Two male suspects have been arrested and charged with committing five robberies in under 15 minutes.

Police allege two patrons of Menz Bar initially got into an argument with another man and ended up assaulting him in the washroom of the bar just after midnight.

The suspects then allegedly robbed two other men at knife-point inside the bar, and at some point one of the men allegedly exposed himself.

The suspects then left the bar, but things were far from over, police say.

"A friend of the initial victim followed the (suspects) outside and then a friend of that person's followed them to try to get them to come back inside," said police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter. "They were confronted by the two accused outside."

Police allege the suspects then robbed the two men who followed them outside, as well as one other person nearby — in total two men and one woman.

They then fled on foot, but didn't get far. A police station is located just a few minutes walk from the bar and officers were on scene "within seconds." After a brief foot pursuit, police say they managed to apprehend both suspects.

All of the stolen property was recovered.

Jason Boudreau, 25, of Halifax is charged with five counts of robbery, assault, breach of probation and possession of a weapon. Brandon Upshaw, 32, of Windsor is charged with five counts of robbery, assault and performing an indecent act.

The two were arraigned in Halifax provincial court yesterday and were remanded into custody. They will appear in court today for a bail hearing.

Only one man was hurt. He was taken to the QEII Health Sciences Centre with non-life-threatening facial injuries.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Pedestrians walk past the Menz Bar on Gottingen Street yesterday. Two men were charged with five counts of robbery, as well as assault and weapons-related offences, after an incident at the bar early yesterday morning.

Another man charged in New Year's Eve brawl

PHILIP CROUCHER
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CRIME Antigonish RCMP have laid charges against a 24-year-old Halifax man who was arrested Monday in connection with a New Year's Eve brawl that resulted in the death of a Nova Scotia man.

Julian Frederick Chittick is charged with five weapons-related offences, uttering threats, assault with a weapon and breach of conditions.

Chittick, who earlier this month had several charges dropped against him by the Crown — including attempted murder — in connection with a shooting in Dartmouth last spring, was to make an appearance yesterday morning at Antigonish provincial court for a bail hearing, but it was eventually put over until today.

Antigonish RCMP spokesman Sgt. Tony Perry noted Chittick's charges aren't related to the homicide of Jonathan Beaton, a 25-year-old from Southside Harbour, Antigonish Co.

Police say Beaton was stabbed to death at the same house party after a major brawl broke out, which injured four people.



Julian Frederick Chittick

"The charges laid against Chittick are in relation to events that took place that night at 123 College St., but are not in direct relation to Jonathan Beaton," Perry said.

"If you were to look at the information (of the charges), it would have other people's names attached to it."

Chittick was one of two people from HRM arrested in connection with this incident Monday. The other was an 18-year-old Dartmouth male, who has been released on an undertaking for assault and will appear in Antigonish court March 31.

Earlier this month, police charged Christopher David Fordham of Antigonish with attempted murder, aggravated assault and two counts of assault causing bodily harm in the case.

News in brief

STATION ROBBED Halifax Regional Police say a man sporting a knife robbed the Petro Canada gas station on Main Street in Dartmouth yesterday morning. Police say the incident happened at 8:43 a.m., with the female employee robbed by a lone male suspect. He is described as white, five-foot-four and 150 pounds. He was said to be wearing a light-blue face mask, light-blue hat and a navy-blue jacket.

THEFT The Duly Noted stationary store on Quinpool Road in Halifax was robbed Monday just after 5 p.m. Halifax Regional Police say a man armed with a silver handgun entered the store and demanded money from the clerk. He received an undisclosed amount of cash and fled on foot with a mask or scarf over his face. He was last seen in the Pepperell Street area. METRO HALIFAX

Drunk-driving charge laid after truck veers off Highway 104

COLCHESTER A 40-year-old New Brunswick truck driver is facing a charge of impaired driving after police say the tractor he was driving went off the road on Highway 104 in Brentwood, Colchester County, earlier this week.

Police say the accident happened Monday at about 3:30 p.m., with the 2003 Peterbelt Semi-Tractor leaving the highway between the exits of Brookfield and Stewiakce.

Police say the accident caused extensive damage to several feet of guard rail, with the truck also going through a ditch and about 150 feet of wooded area before coming to a stop.

Sgt. Al Affleck of the Colchester County RCMP said the truck didn't have a trailer attached to it.

"They had to a cut a lot of trees down to get him out," he said.

"He didn't even have a scratch on him (though)."

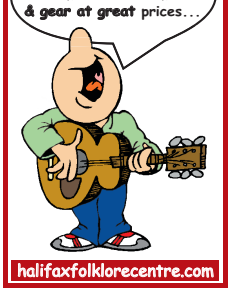
The truck driver, who is from Fredericton, was released from custody yesterday and is scheduled to go to Truro provincial court on March 3.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX

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Feds announce $500,000 in funding for Barrington Business Park
The federal government announced yesterday $500,000 towards the expansion of the Barrington Business Park project. The money is coming through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency with the park expansion expected to improve Barrington's capacity to attract and retain industrial and commercial companies. METRO NEWS SERVICES

RCMP leaving Wagmatcook

Cape Breton police to take over, but still no inquiry into shooting

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RCMP will no longer handle policing at the Wagmatcook First Nation reserve in Cape Breton, but band council still hasn't gotten the public inquiry they've been seeking into the death of John Simon.

Nine band representatives travelled to Halifax yesterday to meet with Justice Minister Ross Landry and struck a deal to have Cape Breton Regional Police take over policing duties.

"There's no trust in the community right now with the RCMP," said band chief of operations Brian Arbuthnot after the meeting.


Ross Landry

"Council is concerned about the safety of RCMP officers in the community and it was felt because we had the option of going to CBRM police that it was a better option."

The move is fallout from the Dec. 3, 2008 shooting of Simon, 44, by an RCMP officer.

An internal report absolved the officer of wrongdoing.

Band members have been highly critical of the report, believing there may be a conflict of interest, and have demanded a public inquiry. The province has said that's premature until the band has had a chance to read the report.

> **"There's no trust in the community right now with the RCMP."**
> Brian Arbuthnot, Wagmatcook First Nation

But Wagmatcook is waiting on a freedom of information request to the federal government to get their hands on it. Even then, Arbuthnot doubts it will be enough.

"We're not optimistic we're going to be getting a complete report. We're going to be getting a sanitized, edited version. Really, to that end we're not going to have the full story," he said.

Freedom of information requests have been known to take months, but Landry said the province will be lobbying the federal government to release it as soon as possible.

Cape Breton Regional Police will take over for the RCMP for at least three years, starting in April. It will cost the province and feds $623,000 per year jointly, up from $477,000. The increase is due to a staff increase of four person-years instead of three.

Body of RCMP officer to be returned to Canada

Haiti Crisis

REPATRIATION The RCMP announced yesterday plans are underway for the body of Sgt. Mark Gallagher to be flown back to Canada for the repatriation at CFB Trenton in Ontario.


Sgt. Mark Gallagher

Gallagher, 50, is the former public relations officer for the RCMP in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick who died from last week's devastating earthquake in Haiti.

Gallagher left Halifax in July for a peace operation in Haiti where he trained Haitian police as part of a UN mission.

Gallagher, who is survived by his wife and two adult children, was found dead last Thursday in the Haiti capital of Port-au-Prince. The remains of the Bathurst, N.B., native were recovered under the collapsed remains of the building he was living in.

Police say Gallagher's body was recovered last Saturday. At the request of the family, a RCMP regimental funeral will take place in Woodstock, N.B., at a yet-to-be-determined date.

METRO HALIFAX

Condolences

- In memory of Sgt. Mark Gallagher, the public can submit condolences via the RCMP website at www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ns.
- The messages will be compiled and provided to Sgt. Gallagher's family.

D.C. experts to help select firm to design library

CONSULTANTS The municipality has hired a team of experts to help it choose the best company to design Halifax's new Central Library.

Several employees of Creative Class Group, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm, will provide advice to Halifax Public Libraries staff as they work to select the architectural firm that will design the new building, said a release issued yesterday. Four firms are currently vying for the municipal contract.

The selection committee is expected to make its decision within a few weeks. The chosen firm will then begin drawing up plans for the new library based on staff input and a series of public consultations, the release said.

The Central Library, to be built on the corner of Queen Street and Spring Garden Road, is expected to cost around $55 million.

METRO HALIFAX

CFB Stadacona **This exhibit rings a bell**



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Rick Sanderson, acting director of the Maritime Command Museum at CFB Stadacona, takes a look at the bell from the HMCS Patrician yesterday. The bell was part of a private collection for over 80 years and was just recently donated to the museum. The museum unveiled a new permanent display yesterday which features bells from over 25 ships and celebrates their historical significance to the naval community.

Government must fund library materials for the blind: CNIB

DISABILITIES Library resources for the blind are under threat and will start to disappear without government funding, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind warned yesterday.

The CNIB operates Canada's largest library of Braille and audio materials funded entirely through donations. But yesterday it announced it can no longer sustain the $10 million annual operating cost without government help.

CNIB is asking for $165,000 from Nova Scotia as well as federal funding.

"Nova Scotians who are blind or partially sighted have the right to read and the right to a library that provides information in formats they can read," said CNIB Maritime executive director Duncan Williams in a press release.

The CNIB warned services could be affected as soon as this April. Some provinces, such as Ontario and Alberta, have already chipped in.

METRO HALIFAX

Alone in G8

- Canada is the only G8 country that does not publicly fund library services for people with vision loss, according to the CNIB.

Insurer cancels coverage over fires

FIRE An insurance company says it's cancelling hundreds of clients' coverage in Cape Breton and northern New Brunswick because the number of fire-related claims is soaring.

Leonard Sharman of Co-operators General Insurance Company said yesterday about 1,600 people around Glace Bay have been told they will have to reapply for insurance when their current coverage expires.

He said the company has already paid out $13.3 million in fire losses alone for the two areas in the first seven months of this year.

Coverage will now be on the market value of the house rather than on a replacement cost.

But it will likely mean insurance rates will increase and clients will have to hire inspectors to check their wiring and heat sources in their homes.

Dave Wilson, the MLA who represents people in Glace Bay, said the shift is unfair to people who have dutifully paid their insurance and have not had any claims.

He has written Finance Minister Graham Steele and the superintendent of insurance asking the province to get involved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1,600 About 1,600 Co-operators General Insurance clients around Glace Bay must reapply for coverage when theirs expires.

Provincial advisory council on status of women has new chief

BOARD The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women has a new executive director.

Stephanie MacInnis-Langley, a longtime employee of the provincial Department of Justice, will take over the position on Feb. 15.

MacInnis-Langley has a background in victim services, crime prevention and running a transition house. She was most recently the director of crime prevention in the Department of Justice's public safety and security division.

Denise Peterson-Rafuse, minister responsible for the advisory council, says MacInnis-Langley's background will benefit initiatives to address violence against women.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper expected to head to Truro for civic centre announcement

VISIT It appears Prime Minister Stephen Harper is coming to Truro this week and is expected to bring a cheque for the region's long-discussed civic centre project.

A source tells the Truro Daily News bureaucrats and police or security officials scouted the Colchester Legion Stadium during the past week.

The visit leads many to believe Harper will be making the announcement at the rink if it fits the security bill.

Part of the civic centre funding is going to renovate the stadium.

"We are expecting some special guests in town Thursday," Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley MP Scott Armstrong said.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

Air travellers allowed carry-on bags again
Ottawa is relaxing its rules for flying into the United States by allowing passengers to take one carry-on bag on the plane. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Harper tinkers with cabinet positions

MacKay still defence minister, but no ACOA

Prime Minister Stephen Harper called it "fine-tuning the ministry," perhaps because "recalibrate" was already taken.

Three weeks after he shut down Parliament to give his minority government an extended winter break to "recalibrate" its agenda, Harper performed a minor make-over on his cabinet yesterday that left most major portfolios untouched.

"This is the cabinet that will lead us through the second and final phase of our economic action plan," Harper declared.

The cabinet changes, which touch on 13 portfolios, were headlined by a Conservative government pitch to wrestle down the staggering deficits that sprang seemingly from nowhere after the October 2008 election and threaten to march indefinitely into the future.

38 At 38 members, including Stephen Harper, the Conservative executive is close to the all-time high of 40 appointed by Brian Mulroney in 1984.

Stockwell Day, the former flamboyant Canadian Alliance leader who has mellowed into a yeoman cabinet performer for Harper, was moved out of International Trade to the Treasury Board, where he has a mandate to keep a tight lid on public spending.

"It will be essential for the government to restrain the growth of spending," said Harper. "The president of the Treasury Board plays a critical role in overseeing government expenditures."

Leadership of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is being turned over to a New Brunswick MP after years of being headed up by Peter MacKay.

Keith Ashfield, the Conservative MP for Fredericton, was named minister for ACOA and the Atlantic Gateway.

He takes over from MacKay, who as defence minister has been handling the Afghan mission, allegations of detainee abuse and Canada's military response to the Haitian earthquake.

Political science professors say Prime Minister Stephen Harper likely wants to give MacKay more time to concentrate on Canada's role in Afghanistan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Let Haitians in Canada: Groups

Haiti Crisis



PETER MCCABE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A police officer talks to a woman in Montreal on Monday, as hundreds of Haitian-Canadians crowded around a law office in the hope of fast-tracking their loved ones into Canada, only to be turned away after waiting up to seven hours. Yesterday they were back, still hoping to help relatives from Haiti.

FAMILIES Immigration advocates are pleading with the Canadian government to be more flexible in allowing evacuees arriving from quake-ravaged Haiti to be joined by their relatives.

A coalition of refugee and immigrant groups presented a number of requests yesterday for Ottawa to further relax its entry rules during the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

They delivered that lengthy list as distressed Haitian-Canadians continued massing outside the offices of immigration consultants in the desperate hope they might help get their loved ones here faster.

Advocates want the definition of who qualifies for family reunification to be broadened beyond the immediate household, to include brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and grandparents.

They say Ottawa has shown some signs of flexibility, but needs to do far more. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Rising demand for hybrid and electric vehicles will mean big changes for government budgets, experts say. Scan this code for the story.

News in brief

INTERNET Canada's privacy commissioner should investigate Nexopia, how a youth-oriented social networking site uses the personal information of its members, an advocacy group said yesterday.

EDMONTON An infant will remain on life support in an Edmonton hospital until the courts can decide how to deal with a request from his parents for more time to assess his health.

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Judge orders publications to pay Polanski

A Paris judge ordered three French publications yesterday to pay damages to Roman Polanski and his family for printing unauthorized photos taken near his chalet where is under house arrest — but the sums were a fraction of what the filmmaker had demanded. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



No White House party planned

Do not expect any partying at the White House today. Press secretary Robert Gibbs says nothing special is being planned to take note of Barack Obama's first year as president. Obama took the oath of office Jan. 20, 2009. Gibbs acknowledged that today is an "anniversary of types," but says the staff is not focused on marking the first year.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kennedy's seat falls to Republicans

MASSACHUSETTS In a major upset in liberal Massachusetts, Republican Scott Brown rode a wave of voter anger to defeat Democrat Martha Coakley in a U.S. Senate election yesterday that may leave President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in doubt. The loss by the once-favoured Coakley for the seat that the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy held for nearly half a century signalled big problems for the president's party this fall when House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates are on the ballot nationwide. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunman kills 8 in rural Virginia

VIRGINIA Police say a lone gunman killed eight people in central Virginia, with seven bodies found at one home. State police say officers had the suspect, 39-year-old Christopher Speight, circled in the woods last night near the home and that they believed he was still alive. Police say the eighth shooting victim was found on the side of the road and died on the way to the hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Testimony at war crimes trial reveals Ukrainian guards played key role in Nazi-era death camps. Scan this code for the story.

UN beefs up security in Haiti

Security Council adds 3,500 more troops, police to earthquake relief

Haiti Crisis

The UN Security Council yesterday unanimously approved 3,500 extra troops and police officers to beef up security in Haiti and ensure that desperately-needed aid gets to earthquake victims as the world body defended itself against criticism that millions still don't have food or water.

A week after the magnitude-7.0 quake struck, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said the UN food agency distributed rations for nearly 200,000 people. It is a small percentage of the three million to 3.5 million the UN says have been affected. Ban said the UN goal is to increase the number of people receiving food to one million this week and at least two million in the following two weeks.

"The situation is overwhelming," Ban told reporters.

But he said "initial difficulties and bottlenecks" in delivering relief items are being overcome and UN relief operations "are gearing up quickly."

He cited a new system at the airport giving priority to humanitarian flights, the opening of five new land corridors to deliver aid and U.S.-led efforts to open port facilities possibly sometime next week. In addition, badly-damaged hospitals are starting to function, water supplies are increasing and more tents and temporary shelters are arriving, he said. Tens of thousands of people are still sleeping in the streets or under plastic sheets in makeshift camps, and many shout at any foreigner for food and water. Relief workers say they fear visiting some parts of the city because of looting and violence by desperate survivors. The resolution adopted by the Security Council yesterday will add 2,000 troops to the 7,000 military peacekeepers already in the country and 1,500 police to the 2,100-strong international police force. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orphans readied for Netherlands

• A charter plane heading to Haiti to pick up 109 children being adopted by Dutch families will reach Port-au-Prince today, the Dutch government said, as an adoption expert warned against hastily plucking children out of the quake-shattered nation. The Foreign Ministry said the children were being gathered in an orphanage and will be bussed to the city's airport for medical checks before the plane lands.

A 13-hour ride for web access

CHINA They arrive at this gritty desert crossroads weary from a 13-hour train ride but determined. The promised land lies just across the railway station plaza: A large sign that says "Easy Connection Internet Cafe."

The visitors are Internet refugees from China's western Xinjiang region, whose 20 million people been without links to the outside world since the government blocked virtually all online access, text messages and international phone calls after ethnic riots in July.

It's the largest and longest such blackout in the world, observers say.

Every weekend, dozens of people pile off the train in Liuyuan, a sandswept town on the ancient Silk Road that's the first train stop outside Xinjiang, 650 kilometres east of Urumqi, the regional capital.

Authorities unplugged Xinjiang, a sprawling area three times the size of Texas, in an attempt to prevent a repeat of the ethnic rioting between the Han Chinese majority and the mainly Muslim Uighur minority that the government says left almost 200 dead. China's government blamed overseas activists for the riots, saying they stirred up resentment in the Uighur community through websites and emails. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia **Rally for slain journalist**



MISHA JAPARIDZE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators carry a portrait of slain journalist Anastasia Baburova, right, during a protest in Moscow yesterday. More than 500 activists rallied in memory of a human rights lawyer and a journalist killed a year ago, and several dozen of them were detained by police.



News in brief

CAYMAN ISLANDS A 5.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the Cayman Islands yesterday, but no damage or injuries were reported. The quake was centred in the Caribbean Sea about 65 kilometres east-southeast of the capital, George Town, and had a depth of 10 kilometres, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, 900 kilometres to the northeast, scores of parents worried about a possible tsunami rushed to pick their children up from schools, officials said. Despite assurances that there was no threat of a tsunami, some parents insisted on taking their children home, saying they had already lost loved ones in last week's 7.0-magnitude earthquake that killed an estimated 200,000 people in Haiti.

EGYPT Archaeologists have unearthed a 2,000-year-old temple that may have been dedicated to the ancient Egyptian cat goddess Bastet, the Supreme Council of Antiquities said yesterday. The ruins of the Ptolemaic-era temple were discovered by Egyptian archaeologists in the heart of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C.

SEX CHANGES Cuba has begun performing state-sponsored sex-change operations after the government lifted a longtime ban on the procedure in 2007, President Raul Castro's daughter said yesterday. A sexologist and gay-rights advocate, Mariela Castro runs the Center for Sex Education, which prepares transsexuals for sex-change operations and identifies Cubans it deems ready for the procedure. Speaking to reporters during the fifth Cuban Conference on Sexual Education, Orientation and Therapy, Castro said surgeries began in 2008, but would not specify exactly how many have been performed or how much they cost. The operations are covered by Cuba's health - are system, even though some have protested the decision to allow them.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

An ugly juxtaposition

TheWestView



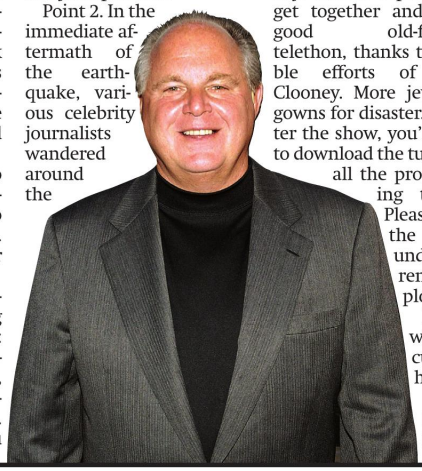
Rush Limbaugh is an appalling person. In the wake of the Haiti earthquake, he responded to U.S. President Barack Obama's plea for donations by advising his radio audience not to respond: "We've already donated. It's called the U.S. income tax."

When it comes down to the angels versus Rush Limbaugh, you always want to be on the side of the angels. But you also have to wonder about the angels.

With the best of intentions, the angels (including all the minor deities: Celebrities, the media, well-meaning politicos and, above all, Bono) are contributing to disaster fatigue.

Case in point: Did you watch the Golden Globes Sunday? A parade of (literally) overexposed starlets took to the stage, each wearing a ribbon to express solidarity with the people of Haiti, along with hundreds of thousands of dollars in gowns, jewels and boob jobs, each solemnly encouraging me to give, apparently unaware of the unattractive juxtaposition.

Point 2. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, various celebrity journalists wandered around the devastation that was once Port-Au-Prince, poking cameras into the faces of dazed survivors, lamenting the devastation. Not one hair out of place. I kept waiting for one of them to put the damn mike down, roll up designer sleeves, and get to work. Or at least give someone a drink of water.


Rush Limbaugh

I'm not done yet: This Friday, various superstars will get together and stage a good old-fashioned telethon, thanks to the noble efforts of George Clooney. More jewels and gowns for disaster. Right after the show, you'll be able to download the tunes, with all the proceeds going to Haiti. Please ignore the subtle undercurrent of exploitation.

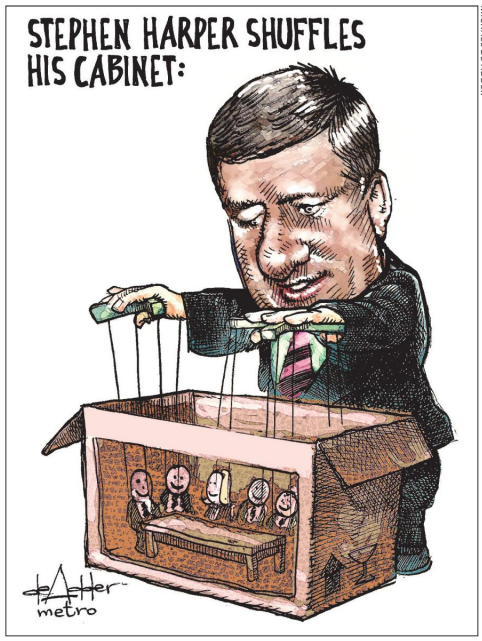
Meanwhile, rescue forces haven't even tallied up all the dead, while they have to cope with aftershocks, looters, disease and unimaginable deprivation.

I'm not sure how much of this is helping and how much of it is marketing. Haven't we learned anything about nature's capacity to kick the poor of the world in the teeth, and can't we get there with food, water and rescue faster? Why does it always seem that the governments of the world have been taken by surprise, and it's up to you and me to bail them out? Isn't it time to change the script?

I realize Haiti needs to be rebuilt from the ground up, but I wonder if we could do with fewer gowns and jewels and more forethought and effective response.

And if that makes me more like Rush Limbaugh and less like Bono, I guess I'll have to live with it.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

U.S. apologies are not enough for Spaniard

A Spanish legislator has angrily rejected a U.S. apology for the FBI's use of a photo of him to create a poster showing what Osama bin Laden might look like today.



Left, a digitally enhanced image taken from the U.S. Department of State's website rewardsforjustice.net, showing what Osama bin Laden could look like today and, right, an image showing a 2004 general election campaign image of Gaspar Llamazares.

Gaspar Llamazares, of the United Left party, demanded yesterday that the U.S. investigate the incident and take appropriate action.

"Apologies are not enough," he told a news conference at parliament after the U.S. ambassador apologized via Spain's interior minister Monday.

"I want a thorough investigation into this disgraceful case, which not only causes concern but also worry and indignation over the behaviour of the FBI," he said, adding he did not rule out legal action.

The FBI used parts of a photo of Llamazares taken from Google Images to create a digitally modified image of the al-Qaida leader for a new wanted poster, which appeared on the State Department website and offered a reward of up to $25 million.

The FBI said the forensic artist had been unable to find suitable features among the reference photographs of bin Laden, and in part used features from a photograph found online.

The FBI has since removed the doctored photo of bin Laden from the site, but Llamazares said he wanted guarantees the images were not still in the hands of intelligence services at airports or other places abroad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Word on the street: Today is the one-year anniversary of Barack Obama's inauguration. Has Obama met your expectations as president of the U.S.?

Kevin Husbands
Halifax

A: Him being the first black president stands out in my mind and I think it's just awesome the job he's done so far with some of the things he's done. He's very personable, he's very cordial and he's a very fair person.

Brittany Barnett
Halifax

A: I would say people are happy with him, but we're still kind of waiting for the big changes to occur.

Abdul Ababtain
Halifax

A: I'm not interested in politics. I don't even watch the news on TV.

Hind Omer
Toronto

A: That's not fair ... He's only been president for one year. Bush was there for eight years ... I think he's done the best he can in one year ... You can't expect miracles.

Mark Nordstrom
Edmonton

A: I was anticipating him to institute the changes he promised, but he hasn't quite lived up to all of them yet.

Katelynn Fraser
Calgary

A: I think he has potential to bring the United States out of the economic meltdown, so I think he has lived up to expectations.



Tell us your views by email to halifaxletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

JAL files for bankruptcy

Japan Airlines filed for one of the country's largest bankruptcies ever yesterday, entering a restructuring that will shrink Asia's top carrier by thousands of jobs and reduce its presence around the world. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
US 97.02¢	US $5.55	US $79.02	11,763.42
US 0.40¢	US 13.4¢	US $1.02	12.88

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

In brief

TAKEOVER Cominar Real Estate Investment Trust has made a friendly takeover bid for Halifax-based Overland Realty Limited in an all-cash deal that values Overland at just under $71 million. In an announcement yesterday, Quebec's largest commercial property owner said it has offered 82 cents a share for Overland.

SPENDING Government and consumer spending will help drive most of Canada's economic growth this year, says the Conference Board's Canadian winter outlook. The economic think tank said yesterday the country's economic outlook looks much brighter today than it did a year ago, but the forecast for recovery remains muted. While the economy will grow, job creation will not be high enough to make much of a dent in unemployment, which will average 8.6 per cent this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manila Summit protest



BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters march for a rally outside a hotel at Manila's financial district of Makati city, the venue for the three-day Coral Triangle Initiative Business Summit yesterday in the Philippines. The protesters scored the summit for allegedly "ignoring the voices and interests of coastal communities."

Boost needed: BoC

Central bank signals interest rates to stay low

The global recovery is strengthening, but still needs a boost from massive "extraordinary" stimulus measures to sustain growth, the Bank of Canada said yesterday.

And the central bank also signalled once again it intends to keep interest rates at historic lows until at least mid-year despite growth returning to the Canadian economy.

"Economic growth in Canada resumed in the third quarter of 2009 and is expected to have picked up further in the fourth quarter," bank governor Mark Carney and his policy-making council said in an accompanying note.

"Nevertheless, considerable excess supply remains, and the bank judges that the economy was operating about 3.25 per cent below its production capacity in the fourth quarter of 2009."

The statement, which included a minor downgrade in projected growth for this year, suggests Canada will be taking a message to the G7 meeting of finance ministers and bank governors in early February that now is not the time for governments to exit stimulus strategies.

In the statement yesterday, the bank said it would do its part by keeping its trendsetting rate at 0.25 per cent until at least mid-year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Growth forecast

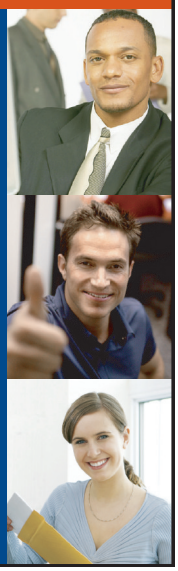
- As well, the bank tweaked its October economic growth forecast for this year a tenth of a point lower to 2.9 per cent. However, it said 2011 would be slightly better than it thought, with growth projected at 3.5 per cent. And a new report on leading indicators from Statistics Canada, released before the bank's announcement, offered more evidence that economic activity picked up last month.

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ScanLife

Feel like you missed the boat on the 2009 market rally? A new study suggests you're far from alone. Scan this code for the story.

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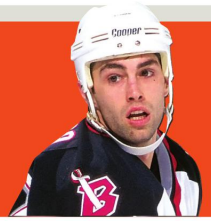


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Earthquake takes big toll on Haiti's football federation

Caribbean football officials say at least 30 members of Haiti's football federation have died in the country's earthquake. In a report to world governing body FIFA yesterday, the Caribbean Football Union said the dead included players, referees, coaches, and administrative and medical officials of the federation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Peca retires after 13 seasons

Michael Peca is retiring from hockey. The 35-year-old announced yesterday that he's calling it quits after 13 seasons in the NHL. Peca spent last season with the Columbus Blue Jackets and was unsigned this year. Peca won gold with Team Canada at the 2002 Olympics and was part of two Stanley Cup finalists — the 1999 Buffalo Sabres and 2006 Edmonton Oilers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

No 3-peat for Mooseheads

Halifax fails to extend modest two-game winning streak in 5-2 loss to Shawinigan

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads owned the highlight reel, but it was the Shawinigan Cataractes who earned the win.

Despite dazzling goals from star Tomas Knotek and rookie Andrew Wigginton, the Mooseheads' quest for three straight wins fell short as they dropped a 5-2 decision to the Cataractes before a crowd of 4,036 at the Metro Centre.

"Unfortunately, it wasn't enough," said Mooseheads defenceman Pascal Amyot of his teammates' pretty goals.

The Cataractes were tenacious from the opening faceoff and grabbed a 2-0 lead early on goals from Antoine Houde-Caron at 1:20 and Yannick Veilleux at 13:38.

Veilleux's goal belonged on the blooper reel, as he lobbed an arcing shot from the faceoff circle that somehow eluded the glove of Mooseheads goalie Mathieu Corbeil.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Shawinigan Cataractes winger Yannick Veilleux tries to dislodge the puck from the glove of Mooseheads goalie Mathieu Corbeil during last night's QMJHL game at the Metro Centre. The Cataractes beat the Moose 5-2.

Later in the first, Knotek danced around a Shawingan defender on a fabulous deke before roofing a shot blocker side to cut the lead in half. Wigginton's goal came at 11:39 of the second in response to a tally from Toronto Maple Leafs prospect Philippe Paradis that made it 3-1 just 51 seconds into the frame.

The Halifax native grabbed the puck at his own blue line and went all the way, scoring on a slick move to his backhand.

"It was awesome," he said. "I dreamt about that all my life."

But the Herd couldn't gather momentum. The Cataractes finished with a 36-19 edge in shots and put the game away in the third with a power-play goal and another into an empty net.

Amyot described his team as "disappointed" afterward.

"We didn't come out prepared," Amyot said. "They started pressuring us and overall they just outworked us. When you get outworked, it's pretty hard to win."

The last-place Mooseheads (10-34-3) were coming off two weekend wins in which 19-year-old goalie Peter Delmas stopped 53 of 55 shots and was named QMJHL's defensive player of the week. But to keep the 18-year-old Corbeil from getting rusty, head coach Cam Russell changed things up.

"That didn't affect us at all," said right-winger Jessyko Bernard. "We've got two really good goaltenders, they're both stars in the league, and we're confident with both of them in the net. That should have been a win tonight."

• For more coverage of the Mooseheads, visit our Q Files blog at www.metronews.ca/qfiles and follow @metroqfiles on Twitter.

SCOREBOARD

PBL

	W	L	PCT	GB
Puerto Rico	5	0	1.000	—
Rochester	3	0	1.000	1
Lawton-Fort Sill	3	1	.750	1.5
HALIFAX	**3**	**1**	**.750**	**1.5**
Manchester	2	3	.400	3
Buffalo	1	3	.250	3.5
Vermont	0	3	.000	4
Quebec	1	4	.200	4
Maryland	1	4	.200	4

FRIDAY
Lawton-Fort Sill at HALIFAX, 7 p.m.
SUNDAY
HALIFAX at Manchester, 5 p.m.

QMJHL

	W	L	T	P
Saint John	38	7	1	77
Drummondville	33	13	2	68
Victoriaville	33	13	2	68
Moncton	30	11	4	64
Quebec	28	13	6	62
Cape Breton	27	16	5	59
Rouyn-Noranda	27	17	4	58
Rimouski	24	16	6	54
P.E.I.	24	18	6	54
Gatineau	23	19	4	50
Shawinigan	22	19	6	50
Montreal	22	20	3	47
Chicoutimi	16	22	8	40
Val-d'Or	17	24	5	39
Bathurst	16	26	5	37
Lewiston	16	28	2	34
Baie-Comeau	14	29	3	31
HALIFAX	**10**	**34**	**3**	**23**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Baie-Comeau 3 P.E.I. 2 (OT)
Shawinigan 5 HALIFAX 2
SATURDAY'S GAMES
Bathurst at HALIFAX, 7 p.m.
SUNDAY'S GAMES
P.E.I. at HALIFAX, 4 p.m.

Rainmen donate half their month's salaries for Haiti relief

CHARITY The Halifax Rainmen are opening their wallets in a big way to assist the disaster relief effort in Haiti.

The Rainmen announced yesterday that all players on their roster have agreed to donate half of their January salaries to help rebuild a nation devastated by the earthquake.

"The thing is, these guys don't make a whole lot of money," said Rainmen owner Andre Levingston. "These guys came together and said, 'We want to do this … The world is trying to help and we just want to do our part.' That's an amazing thing to do, especially guys who don't have NBA salaries."

The Rainmen also will accept donations from fans to help the relief effort in lieu of the 50-50 draw at Friday's 7 p.m. home game against the Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry.

The team's title sponsor, Rogers Communication, donated $200 for every Rainmen point scored in Saturday's 119-109 win over the Vermont Frost Heaves, for a total of $23,800.

In other news, the Rainmen are expected to announce today that guard Antwan Dobie has left the team. He signed last Thursday but played just three minutes on Sunday. Other moves are also possible as the Rainmen work to upgrade their roster. Small forward Jevohn Shepherd has recovered from a hamstring injury and will likely return to the lineup Friday.

MATTHEW WUEST/ METRO HALIFAX

Haligonian to play for Canada at CONCACAF championship

SOCCER Halifax's Molly Allen will represent defending champion Canada at the CONCACAF women's under-20 soccer championship starting today in Ciudad, Guatemala.

Allen, an NCAA Division I sophomore defender at Virginia Commonwealth, cracked Canada's 20-player roster earlier this month at a selection camp in Tampa, Fla.

Canada faces Costa Rica today. The top three finishers qualify for the U-20 World Cup in Germany in July.

In other news, Bedford defender Ante Jazic will play for Canada's senior men's team on Jan. 31 in a friendly in Jamaica.

Jazic plays for Major League Soccer's Chivas USA.

METRO HALIFAX



Molly Allen

Sports in brief

AHL Montreal Canadiens prospect P.K. Subban scored the shootout winner as Canada beat PlanetUSA 10-9 in the American Hockey League all-star game last night in Portland, Me. Ottawa Senators' farmhand Ryan Keller led the winners with two goals and an assist. Forward Andrew Gordon of Porters Lake skated for Canada and was held off the scoresheet.

AUS Saint Mary's Huskies freshman guard Justine Colley has been named Atlantic University Sport female athlete of the week. The East Preston native piled up 56 points as the Huskies split a weekend pair. She ranks second in Canadian Interuniversity Sport with her 21.8 points-per-game average.

MJAHL The Pictou County Weeks Crushers edged the Halifax Lions 2-1 in overtime in Maritime Junior A Hockey League play last night in New Glasgow. Ben Clarke scored for the Lions, 14-15-5.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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SCANLIFE
Sergio Garcia has some advice for his troubled colleague, Tiger Woods. Scan this code for the full story.

McIvor and Duncan finish first

Ashleigh McIvor finished first in women's qualifying at the skicross World Cup yesterday while fellow Canadian David Duncan took top spot in the men's qualification. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Superstar aerialist prepares for last shot at Olympic gold

QUEST Eight years ago, aerialist Steve Omischl had the physical tools to reach an Olympic podium but lacked the mental toughness. Four years later, Omischl was mentally strong but a serious foot injury curtailed his quest for an Olympic title.

Now 31 and facing his final Winter Games, the native of North Bay is of sound mind and body as he takes his final crack at the gold medal that has eluded him twice before.

Omischl is a superstar in his sport, with a resumé that includes four World Cup overall championships, five Canadian titles and 20 career World Cup victories. But it's a pair of less impressive showings that stand out the most — Omischl placed 11th in his first Olympics in Salt Lake City in 2002, then slipped to 20th at the 2006 Games in Turin, Italy.

Omischl admitted he didn't know what to expect as a 23-year-old making his first Games appearance.

"I was overwhelmed at how big and flashy everything was," Omischl says in a recent interview. "Instead of competing in places where nobody really cares, we have 20,000 people in the stands and there's all this media attention. As a young kid, I definitely got caught up in the expectation of it all, and I got away from remembering what got me there."

He suffered a plantar fasciitis injury in July 2005 and was forced to miss several months of training, and entered the Turin Olympics completely out of his comfort zone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Steve Omischl competes at FIS Freestyle Skiing World Cup on Jan. 15 in Park City, Utah.

Venues get final touch up

JEFF HODSON
Metro Canada

Organizers of the 2010 Games are hurrying hard to ensure venues look and feel like Olympic sites and that issues — including humidity from the coats of sopping wet spectators — don't affect athletes' performances.

Jan Damnavits, VANOC's director of city venues, said the Richmond Olympic Oval and the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Centre, home of long-track speedskating and curling, respectively, are in a three-to-four-week "fit out" stage of preparation.

Tents and fences are being put up and security perimeters are being established. The bright green and blue Vancouver 2010 graphics are being plastered on fences and buildings.

"We're on plan," Damnavits said yesterday during a tour of the two venues.

"The Games are coming on the 12th and the venues have to open. It's not an option to wait until the 13th."

The Richmond Olympic Oval, which will hold 7,600 spectators, will have 57 temporary tents, 23 trailers and 75 portable toilets.

More than 30 kilometres of cable is being installed for broadcast lighting.

Large white tents were also used to create a double-door to keep humidity in the Oval low.

Inside, the large river-facing windows have been plastered with green-and-blue images of speed skaters.

Mark Messer, the Oval's ice expert, said the ice-making process began about a week ago with the cleaning of the building and the gradual cooling of the concrete slab.

The first coat of ice was applied and the ice was painted with Vancouver 2010 and the Olympic motto: With Glowing Hearts.

The Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Centre, which will hold 5,600 spectators and will be the largest curling venue in the history of the Games, will use 26 tents to form a covered concourse for spectators.

"The outside environment can have a very positive or negative impact on the field of play," said Neil Houston, manager of curling during the Games.

"The major challenge at this point is that we haven't had 6,000 people and pouring rain to test it out fully."

Water evaporating because of body heat from the clothes of thousands of drenched fans could raise humidity in the building, he said. It could cause frost on the ice and could impact the way the stones respond.

GM Place, which will become Canada Hockey Place during the Games, will not begin its formal "fit-out" process until after Jan. 27, the date of the final Vancouver Canucks home game until March.

Damnavits said the process at GM Place will be very short and will have to be completed in a week and a half at the most.



JEFF HODSON/METRO CANADA

An icemaker sprays water on the long-track speedskating track at the Richmond Olympic Oval yesterday. The ice-making process began about a week ago.

No loonies

- Venue managers for both the Oval and the Olympic Centre said there would be no loonies buried in the ice during the 2010 Games.



JEFF HODSON/METRO CANADA

Olympic organizers lead a tour of the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Centre yesterday.

Olympics in brief

STADIUM A small flood at B.C. Place Stadium won't dampen the excitement of the Olympic opening ceremonies, officials said yesterday. Water poured through the stadium's aging roof last week causing a minor flood. That raised concerns the Olympic flame could be doused if there's a major rain storm during the Feb. 12 opening of the 2010 Winter Games. "It's not a concern at all," said David Podmore, chairman of the B.C. Pavilion Corp.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

Sponsored by Money Mart

NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Joanne Doiron	NB, CA	574	232	346	578
2. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	603	259	315	574
3. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	577	232	339	571
3. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	596	233	338	571
3. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	593	231	340	571
6. Brian B	AB, CA	592	236	334	570
7. Cole Warren	NS, CA	584	206	359	565
7. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	599	241	324	565
9. Feroz Mir	ON, CA	594	224	334	558
9. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	593	235	323	558
11. Tom Collier	NS, CA	608	252	305	557
12. Paula Almeida-Stille		592	234	321	555
12. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	592	234	321	555
14. Matty Strathearn	NS, CA	602	236	318	554
15. Brad Goertz	BC, CA	570	196	357	553

* Results exclude Quebec

markerzone.com

metro



Tobogganing tips
Make sure children wear helmets, and that you toboggan on a hill that is away from roads and parking lots. There should be no rocks, trees, fences or other dangers in the path. SAFECANADA.CA



Winter Fun



Stay safe on the road

If you're planning to drive long distances in the winter, pack a safety kit in your car. The kit should include booster cables, a first-aid kit, blankets, extra food and water, a flashlight and road flares, and road maps and a compass.
SAFECANADA.CA

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Season of adventure

From snowshoeing to eagle watching, there's plenty to enjoy this winter

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax


Snowmobiling is a pricier winter hobby, but you can find out how to get started with the Snowmobilers Association of Nova Scotia.

As Bluenosers' noses turn blue and cabin fever sets in, it's time to take the roof off winter.

Handily, there's a government website for that. Taketheroofoffwinter.ca opens the door to a range of outdoor activities, from ice fishing and snowshoeing to building your own outdoor skating rink.

Randy Brooks at the department of tourism sounds amazed that anyone could even think of being bored in winter.

"Get out there and enjoy the fresh air!" he urges, highlighting eagle watching in the Sheffield Mills near Kentville. The official weekends are Jan. 23-24 and Jan. 30-31, with experts and church breakfasts on hand, but you can go any time.

"I don't know how many people have never gone down to see that — it's spectacular," he says.

The eagle-watching sites are well marked off the 101, but check eaglens.ca for feeding times (farmers throw out old food, drawing huge flocks of the bald birds).

Brooks suggests booking a room at a country inn and making a weekend of it.

Winter is a great time to try snowshoeing or cross-country skiing, especially at Kejimkujik National Park. "It's become quite a popular thing," he says.




Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, right, are just two outdoor activities you can do this winter.

Taketheroofoffwinter.ca has activities suitable for people with disabilities and children, plus a listing of what hiking trails are open and where to go downhill and cross-country ski.

Perhaps "skijoring" — a winter sport where a person on skis is pulled by a horse, a dog (or dogs) or a motor vehicle — is more your style. Dartmouth businessman Richard Black loves the stripped-down style of dog sledding, where all you need is cross-country skis, a harness, a belt, a line and 35 pounds of dog.

Black and his Siberian Husky Cali skijor in the parks around Halifax and into the wild for the annual winter camping trip.

"He loves it," Black says. "Last winter, I let the boys get a quarter of a mile ahead of me and let the dog chase them.

"When I flew by them, I cracked a beer," Black laughs. Check out mushmaritimes.fyweb.com for details or go to crownjewelresort.com to learn about traditional dog sledding in Cape Breton.

A more sedate ride can be had just outside of the city at Hatfield Farm, which offers horse-drawn sleigh rides (hatfield-farm.com).

Snowmobiling is a pricier hobby, with rentals few and far between, but you can find out how to get started with the Snowmobilers Association of Nova Scotia (snowmobilersns.com).

Outdoor stores such as Mountain Equipment Co-Op, the Trail Shop and The Adventure Outfitters (TAO) can link would-be outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen to like-minded people.



Avoid frostbite

Watch for frostbite when you and your children are out enjoying winter activities. Dress in layers, and make sure heads and necks are covered with hats and neck warmers. On sunny days, don't forget the sunscreen. SAFECANADA.CA



For those who enjoy nature and don't mind chilly temperatures, winter camping can be quite the adventure. Plus, you can hike, cross-country ski and even snowshoe.

Winter camping can be 'magical'

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Halifax

Winter camping isn't for everyone. But for those who enjoy nature and don't mind some potentially chilly temperatures, it can be quite the experience.

There are a number of places to try winter camping in Nova Scotia.

Bear Falls Wilderness offers camping year-round. Located in Bangs Falls (about 25 minutes away from Bridgewater), it is a 200-acre site with close to three kilometres of river frontage of the Medway River.

"The river and the falls are particularly beautiful," says co-owner Carl Shannon. "People come here and they regularly say, 'It's magical.' We're back a kilometre off the road. There are huge big old growth hemlocks ... It's a pristine, pretty amazing area."

Kejimkujik National Park is also open year-round for camping. Plus, you can hike, cross-country ski and even snowshoe. And if Mother Nature provides the snow, the Big Dam-Flowing Waters Trail and the Peskowesk Trail are conditioned every Friday and Saturday from January through March.



Richard Black, second from left, takes a trip to Soldier Lake in Fall River with his friends and his dog Cali every year.

The Cape Breton Highlands National Park also offers multiple winter camping facilities. The Ingonish Campground and Cheticamp Campground are accessible by car, but the Black Brook Cross Country Ski area and Mary Ann Falls Shelter are accessible only by skis or snowshoes.

But for those looking for a little more of an adventure, roughing it in the woods is a possibility.

"Some people really dig it and enjoy it," says Richard Black, a 31-year-old from Lake Echo. "You know, it's like Cub Scouts. Be prepared. It's fun to go out and kind of survive for a few days."

It's now an annual tradition for him and his friends, with the third trip set to take place this year once the ice is thick enough on Soldier Lake in Fall River. This trip will be a three-day one, whereas previous trips were two days.

"We ski across the lake and it's just all woods, there's no civilization or anything like that," says Black. He brings his cross-country skis along and his Siberian Husky Cali pulls him across the lake.

The first day is spent crossing the lake, finding a suitable campsite, setting it up and gathering firewood.

"It's pretty peaceful," he says of the overall experience.

But it isn't always so relaxing.

"You do get the occasional plane flying overhead, which kind of ruins the mystique," says Black of the nearby Halifax Stanfield International Airport.





MIC MAC MALL Winter Clearance Sale - January 21-31. MIC MAC MALL

Skating tips
If you skate on lakes or rivers, make sure the ice is smooth and at least 10-centimetres thick. Never skate near open water. SAFECANADA.CA



For the love of ice wine

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax



The frozen grapes used to make ice wine are often collected in the middle of the night.



WINERY ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA PHOTOS

Frozen grapes in Jost Vineyards.

Nova Scotians can shake off the winter blues with some "n'ice" reds and whites at next month's third annual Nova Scotia Ice Wine Festival.

Nine wineries are involved in more than 40 events this year, says festival spokeswoman Christine White.

"There's lots of outdoor activities, wine tours, wine tastings and dinners paired with Nova Scotia ice wines," she says.

Wolfville will act as the de facto capital for the festival, as most of the vineyards lay around the Valley village. Local businesses are on board for EntIce on Feb. 6, when Wolfville will turn into a winter wonderland of snow and ice sculptures.

Bold drinkers will have a chance to "freeze your ice off" at the Library Pub, White says, with an 11 a.m. polar-bear dip followed by a much more pleasant dip in the Pub's rented hot tub and an afternoon spent sampling the region's finest ice wines.

Domaine de Grand Pré is hosting paint-can curling, which is exactly what it sounds like.

"They're creating a curling rink right in the middle of their winery," White says, with the winning team donating the grand prize to their charity of choice.

"Another new thing this year is the opportunity to win your own Nova Scotia wine cellar," she adds. If you visit any participating winery during the festival, you can enter your name for a chance to win a selection of 50 Nova Scotian wines.

Ice wine, a sweet dessert beverage, may seem made for Nova Scotia's icy winters, but Grand Pré's Jurg Stutz says it was discovered by German monks 200 years ago. It was forgotten about before being rediscovered in Ontario in the 1970s.

Stutz explains that you need frozen grapes to make ice wine, so the grapes must be harvested in temperatures below -8 C. That means they are often collected in the middle of the night, in the middle of the winter, when floodlit fields yield the frozen-solid fruits, ensuring the "sweetest, highest" concentration of juice you can get. As they warm, the sugar levels lower.

When the perfect balance is reached, the presses are stopped and the juice selected for fermentation.

"It's definitely something very special. It's very sweet," Stutz says. "It's very rich, very flavourful, very concentrated."

The Nova Scotia Ice Wine Festival runs from Feb. 4 to 14. Go to nsicewinefestival.ca for a list of events.



South is a state of mind.



Head to White Point, toss your towel on a pool chair, and order a Caipiriha. See, the mind is working already...

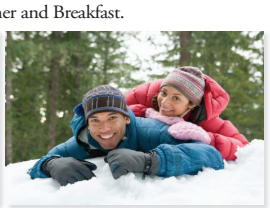
This winter, go South Shore! White Point is the perfect destination for families, couples, "Mom needs a break" weekends, even corporate retreats. Head to the Spa, beach, pool, games room, your cottage, or straight to the bar.

Seafood Festival Weekend February 6th
1 night *from* $129.95 PPDO, plus tax and gratuities
Celebrate our backyard bounty! Indulge in a Seafood Sampler with Mersey Point Seafoods, then join our Executive Chef and Sommelier for an amazing 5-course "seafood infused" wine-paired dinner. Afterward, sing along with Alex Vaughan in the Founder's Lounge. *Package includes:* Room, Seafood Sampler, Chef's Table Wine-Paired Dinner and Breakfast.

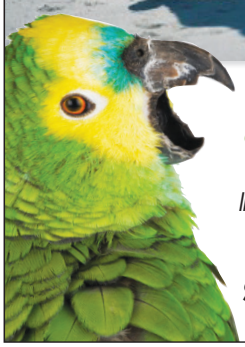
Valentine's Weekend February 12-14th
2 romantic nights *from* $149.99 PPDO, plus tax and gratuities
Package includes: 2 nights room accommodation, Valentine's Dinner Buffet in the Seawatch Dining Room and Dance with The Aviator's.

Winter weekdays are for lovers!
Sneak away and enjoy our Bed & Breakfast Getaway Package
from $119 Per couple, plus tax

B&B Package from $119 Per couple, plus tax





This weekend join a White Point culinary adventure in South America.
South American "Taste a la Beach" Package
Includes: Room, wine tasting, 5-course wine-paired dinner, and breakfast each day. *Details and menu are online.*
Taste Package $139 PPDO. Plus tax & grat.

This weekend, come throw yourself south of the equator with our "Chef's Magic" Culinary Class, "Off the Vine" Wine Tasting and our amazing 5-course Chef's Table Wine Paired Dinner. Read all the details on our new Blog! Complete your stay with a dip in the pool, strolls on the beach, live entertainment in Founder's Lounge, and breakfast overlooking the sea!

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www.whitepoint.com 1.800.565.5068

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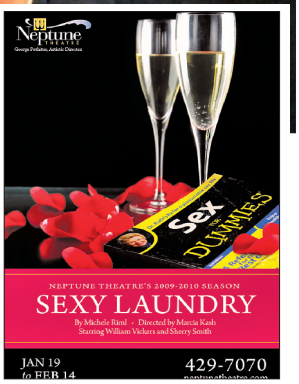
Mic Mac Mall's Winter Clea



ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Ashley MacIsaac is set to play the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium with Symphony Nova Scotia on Jan. 29.

Get out there



Neptune Theatre's Sexy Laundry runs until Feb. 14.

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Halifax

The "Crime of the Century" is happening in Halifax on Wednesday, Jan. 27. It is just one of many events taking place over the next few months in Nova Scotia.

Crime of the Century is actually the title of Supertramp's third album. **Classic Albums Live**, a group of musicians who play note for note, cut for cut renditions of legendary albums will be playing it at Casino Nova Scotia. Tickets are $30.75, including HST and service charges.

On Friday, Jan. 29, former Barenaked Ladies frontman **Steven Page** will also be playing at Casino Nova Scotia, playing a mixture of classic tunes and new material. Tickets are $48, including HST and service charges.

That same night, **Ashley MacIsaac** will be playing at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium with Symphony Nova Scotia. This is a part of the Symphony's Maritime Pops Series, where local musicians play with the Symphony. Tickets range from $29 to $49, plus service fees.

Have you ever thought about making a toboggan? Well if you have, head to **Ross Farm Museum** in New Ross on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31 for a toboggan making demonstration.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Former Barenaked Ladies frontman Steven Page will be at Casino Nova Scotia on Jan. 29. Tickets are $48.

MATTHEW PEYTON/ GETTY IMAGES

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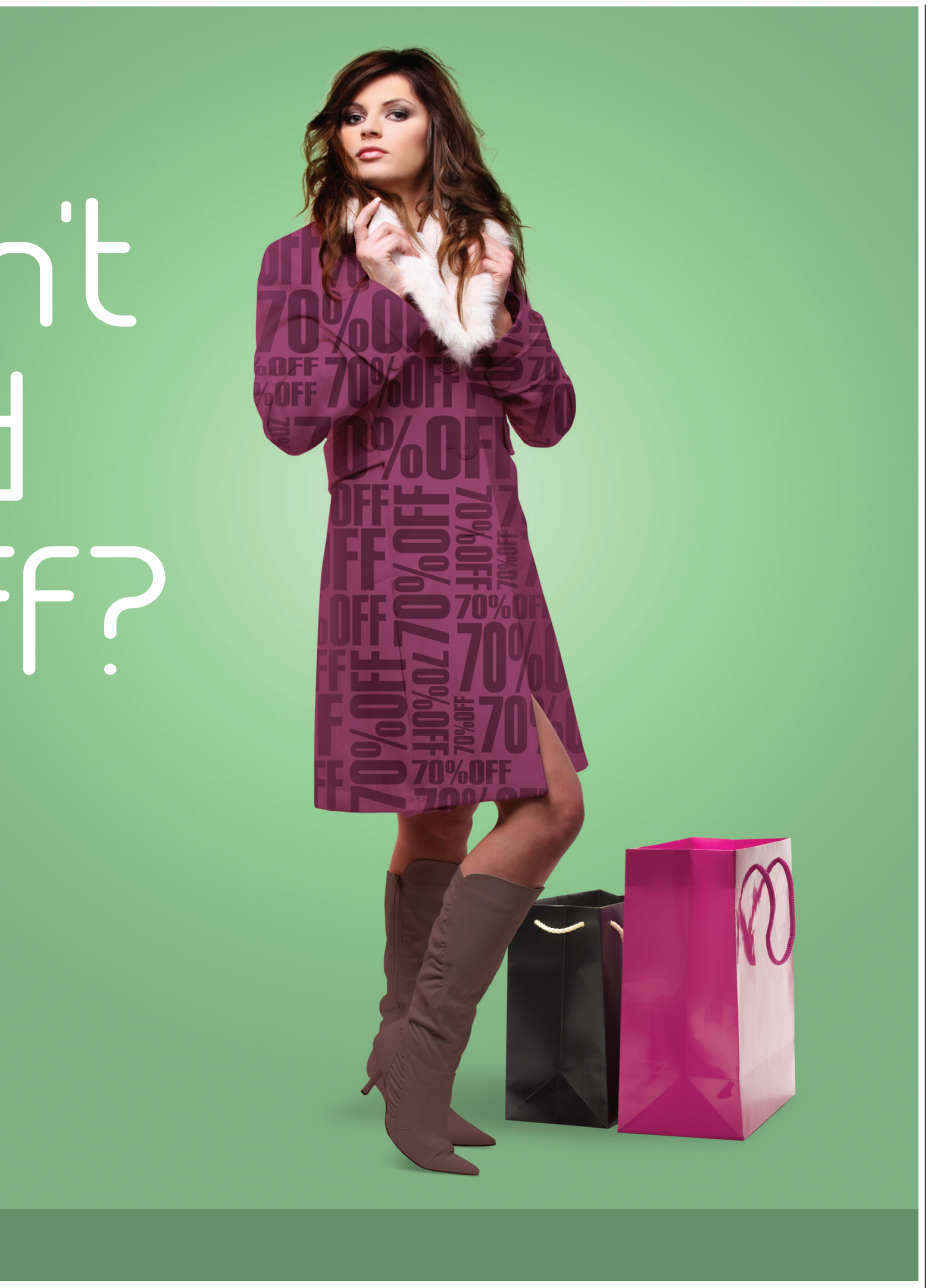
*See individual stores for details.

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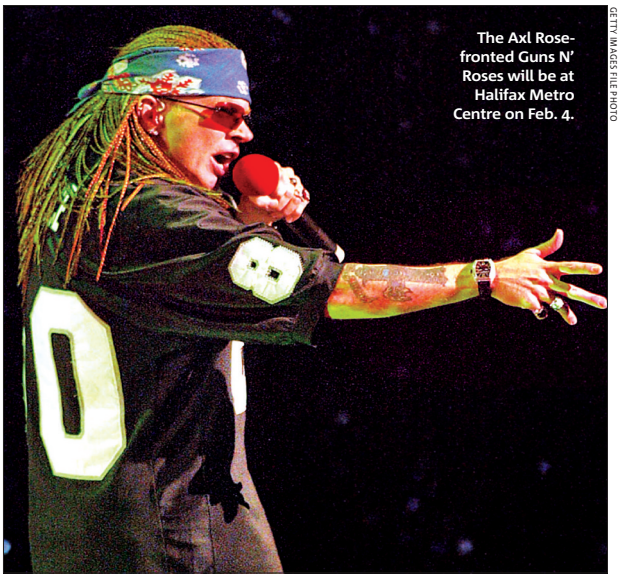


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The Axl Rose-fronted Guns N' Roses will be at Halifax Metro Centre on Feb. 4.

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Rock icons **Guns N' Roses** are coming to the Halifax Metro Centre on Thursday, Feb. 4. Expect lots of cuts from the band's latest album Chinese Democracy, as well as a healthy dose of rock anthems like Welcome to the Jungle and Paradise City. The **Axl Rose**-fronted group has only one other holdover from the band's Use Your Illusion days — keyboardist **Dizzy Reed**. Also on the bill are **Sebastian Bach** (ex-Skid Row frontman) and Canadian rocker **Danko Jones**. Tickets range from $62.50 to $77.50, plus additional service charges if ordered online.

Comedian **Brent Butt** will be performing at the Cohn a week later on Thursday, Feb. 11. The comic is best known for his work on Corner Gas, a show which he also created. Tickets are $34, plus service charges.

Up until Feb. 14, Neptune Theatre will be showcasing **Sexy Laundry**, a hilarious play looking at a couple's marriage and the wife's efforts to rekindle it after 25 years of marriage.

The country's best male curlers will all be in Halifax from March 6 to 14 fighting to win the **2010 Tim Hortons Brier**. Of Team Nova Scotia's previous three victories in the Brier, only one happened on home soil. That was in 1951.



Comedian Brent Butt will be performing at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Feb. 11.

The country's best male curlers will be in Halifax from March 6-14 for the 2010 Tim Hortons Brier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

MIC MAC MALL Winter Clearance Sale - January 21-31. MIC MAC MALL



Snowmobiling tips
When snowmobiling, be sure to ride within your capabilities. Use snowmobile trails wherever possible, and stay on the right side of the trail. SAFECANADA.CA

Winter music fest growing

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Halifax

The In The Dead of Winter Music Festival has a simple objective.

"The objective is to bring good music to a Halifax audience in the dead of winter, like when there's not much going on," says one of the festival's organizers, Tanya Davis. "We want to bring quality programming and music for people to come out to in the slow, quiet months when it's cold..."

Now in its fifth year, the festival has grown from its humble beginnings at the Khyber Club as a three-day festival in 2006.

"Generally, the biggest changes are that it has grown in size and awareness," says Davis. "The festival has grown in popularity. We have some people coming to watch the festival from as far away as Washington, D.C."

Taking place at five venues this year, the festival starts Tuesday and runs until Jan. 30. Around 50 artists will perform this year, including Grammy Award-winner Ani DiFranco. She's playing a sold-out show at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on the opening night of the festival.

Other acts include C.R. Avery. "He's kind of a poet beatboxer type actually, but he plays with a band," says Davis. "The last time I saw him, he had a few string players with him. He beatboxes sometimes through a harmonica."

John K. Samson will also be coming to town. He's better known as the frontman for The Weakerthans, a Juno-nominated band. "His solo stuff is just awesome," says Davis.

Local acts performing at the festival include Ruth Minnikin, Paper Beat Scissors and Thom Swift.

Davis describes the festival as a listening festival. "We book artists that encourage the audience to sit and listen, not talk and drink," she says. We're showcasing the music."

This year's festival will also feature four workshops, including one on harmony. This will be put on by Rose Cousins, The Good Lovelies and Don Brownrigg. "They're all kind of harmony gurus," says Davis.

The workshops are $10 or are free for pass holders and participating musicians.

This is Davis' fourth year volunteering at the festival. "I get to see a lot of music," she says, "at least in five-minute spurts while I am running around."





IVAN OTIS PHOTO

Ani DiFranco, top, and Rose Cousins will be at the In The Dead of Winter Music Festival this year. The festival starts on Tuesday.



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HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
rec Recreation Exploration Community

Winter may be staying put for a couple of months, but it doesn't mean that you should...

Most Canadians tend to slow down a bit and hibernate during the winter season, but this year – turn things around. One great way to turn up the heat is to get moving and get active!

Health Canada recommends 60 – 90 minutes of accumulated physical activity everyday ~ it may seem like a lot, but it all adds up.

So, Don't Hibernate ~ Participate!

Top 5 ways to leave your couch:

- ***Get Out Check it Out ~ Walk – Hike – Bike (snowshoe or ski) HRM!*** To find information on local trails please visit www.halifax.ca/recreation/walking.html
- ***Check out what programs are being offered at your local HRM Recreation Centre.*** www.halifax.ca/rec
- ***Sharpen those skates and check out an open skate at one of HRM's many indoor and outdoor skating facilities!*** www.halifax.ca/rec/Arenas.html For up to date Ice Thickness: www.halifax.ca/real_property/ice/index.asp
- ***Go to the library and borrow a book or dvd on yoga or pilates.*** www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/
- ***Make use of the natural environment*** www.taketheroofoffwinter.ca/ ***for many ideas and tips to enjoy the outdoors this season.***

Information created by HRM Community Recreation Services

ACAD president to step down
Alberta College of Art and Design president Lance Carlson announced his resignation last Wednesday after serving as the head of the institution for six years. His surprise resignation comes into effect June 30. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Two professors among Haiti deaths

According to the Montreal Gazette, two Quebec professors are among the casualties of last week's earthquake in Haiti. Denis Bellavance, a Cégep de Drummondville computer science professor, was lecturing at a university in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit. Georges Anglade, a retired geography professor who helped set up the Université du Québec à Montréal, and his wife died in the quake when the house they were in collapsed on top of them. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Keeping you healthy at school

Working at School

Every Wednesday of January, Metro's Workology section will be featuring a variety of careers that you may not have thought of; jobs in which you stay in college or university after graduating. There are many jobs that make post-secondary institutions hum, here's but a few:

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada



The health service you receive while in university or college can be some of the best in the city you're in, depending on your institution.

"We have the best health service in the city."
Nurse manager Jane Collins of St. Mary's University

Enrolling in a university gives students access to a range of fitness and health experts the likes of which they'll never see again, with staff on hand to get you into shape and to deal with injuries if it goes badly.

Susan Yurincich, fitness centre manager at Brock University, points to the school's qualified instructors in spin class, kick boxing, ball workouts, aqua fitness, dance, fencing and Japanese swordsmanship.

"You also get a free orientation with a personal trainer," she says. "(Students) get their own fitness program created for them."

Brock, which has campuses in St. Catharine's and Hamilton, both in Ontario, has hundreds of varsity and intramural teams in sports such as soccer, volley ball, hockey, underwater hockey and dodge ball.

"Just having a Brock student card, they automatically get the use of our indoor track, all the gyms, our studios, the whirlpool, the pool, squash courts and outdoor tennis courts," Yurincich says. Most other post-secondary institutions work this way as well.

Joe Kenny, head of Brock's Athletic Therapy Clinic, oversees a staff including three full-time athletic therapists, three sports medicine doctors and an orthopedic surgeon to deal with any sports-related injuries, be they varsity or intramural.

University is a great time to get sick, too. In Halifax, nurse manager Jane Collins sees 60 to 70 students a day at Saint Mary's University's Student Health Centre. Complaints range from bad backs to sexually transmitted infections to mental-health issues.

"We have the best health service in the city," Collins says, with a team of practitioners led by five doctors swiftly tending to sick students. "If anybody comes by who has a sore throat or something urgent like a bladder infection, we always fit them in."

The centre does blood work onsite, saving students a trip to the hospital. It can also do minor surgeries like wart removal. The costs are included in the student health plan. That's great news for international students, who otherwise would face a hefty bill and a long wait with a trip to the emergency room.

The centre closes on the weekends, but it's not unusual for Collins to get a call on her cellphone from a student who needs the morning-after pill. She always makes sure they get what they need.

For mental health, they have psychiatrists and student counsellors to whom they refer students and psychologists are covered under the health plan. "We're very aware of mental health. This is the age of early psychosis," she explains. "If somebody comes in who's obviously in a psychotic episode, we send them to the early psychosis program or the psych nurse at the local hospital."

The centre also provides information on sexuality and sexual health, including daily tests for STIs.

"There's all kinds of pamphlets and educational material," Collins says.

Dragons' Den
Dianne Buckner

Will return, see metronews.ca/dragonsden

Tasty! metro's koolest
The Best Halifax has to Offer
Metro News and 96.5 Kool FM want YOU to weigh in on the city's coolest places to eat, party, shop – you name it!
Go to metronews.ca or kool965fm.ca to register your choice for this month's category:
Metro's Koolest Chinese Food!
One lucky player will win a prize pack valued at over $100!
metro Do it daily.
We Play Anything. KOOL 96.5 FM


Job Fair - Full and Part Time
Northwood is looking for RNs, LPNs, CCAs and other support positions for our new 144-room facility in West Bedford. Set to open in the Spring, this building offers a new approach to care. It's location in West Bedford is also ideal for those in the surrounding community to work closer to home.
Does this opportunity speak to you? If so, come speak to us.
Date: January 26, 12-4 p.m.
Place: Bedford Superstore Community Room
1650 Bedford Highway
For more information call **(902) 454-3369,** email us at **hr@nwood.ns.ca** or visit us online at **www.nwood.ns.ca**
NORTHWOOD wellness and caring, together

Residual Value winners announced

The 2010 Canadian Residual Value Award winners have been announced by ALG, which publishes the Automotive Lease Guide for residual values and depreciation. The top place among mainstream brands was taken by Subaru while Infiniti took the highest honours among luxury brands. **CANADIANDRIVER.COM**

Metro Drive



Scion has arrived

The Scion brand has officially come to the Canadian market, with the full lineup making its debut at the Montreal International Auto Show last week through three highly customized, urban-aware models. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

GMC Terrain: Rugged beauty

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

The 2010 GMC Terrain swaggers into the cute-ute arena with bulging fenders, chunky stance and a don't-mess-with-me front grill.

Yes, GMC's take on the freshly-minted Chevrolet Equinox looks like it might eat your kids, but the ruggedly handsome Terrain is really more Rosedale than Rubicon, Which is a good thing. For its intended mission as a compact CUV to go up against such stalwarts as the Honda CR-V, Ford Escape and Toyota RAV4, this little Jimmy makes a pretty strong case.

The Ingersoll, Ont.-built Terrain starts at $27,465 for the base front-drive SLE-1 model with a 182 hp 2.4L four-cylinder. My tester was the top trim SLT-2 front-drive four-cylinder variant with a base price of $34,400. All wheel drive adds $1355 to the upper trim levels (SLT-1 and SLT-2) or $1610 to the lower (SLE-1 and SLE-2). A 264 hp 3.0L V6 is available for $2050 in the three upper trim levels.

Like its bigger brother, the Lambda-platform GMC Acadia, the Terrain benefits from some fine dynamic tuning. The ride is compliant and refined, yet it also shows commendable poise on the B-road stuff. The variable assist rack-and-pinion steering feels good too.

On the highway, the Terrain SLT-2 makes for a relaxed tourer. The eight-way power driver's seat with power lumbar is first-rate (the passenger makes do with two-way manual) and there's surprisingly little wind or engine noise. Perusing the spec sheet reveals standard active noise cancellation in the four-cylinder models.



The 2010 GMC Terrain combines a powerful, handsome look with refined ride and utility.

2010 GMC Terrain

Type: Crossover utility vehicle
Price: from $27,465
Engine: 2.4L four-cylinder/3.0L V6
HP: 182/264

Highlights

- High-quality interior with plenty of storage
- Refined ride

The cabin design echoes the exterior with angular architecture featuring high quality materials and enough visual bling to keep things interesting. There's plenty of well thought out storage, including a closed compartment under the centre armrest large enough for a laptop computer, and two-tier storage in the doors.

Base Terrains come standard with 17-inch alloy wheels, OnStar, Driver Information Centre, auto-dim rearview mirror with back up camera display, block heater and Stabilitrak stability control.

The upper three trim levels get Bluetooth connectivity with voice recognition, premium Pioneer sound with subwoofer and XM radio. Key SLT-2 features include leather, exterior chrome trim, sunroof, programmable powered lift gate, and rear park assist.



On the plus side, it's a smooth unit and returns the best fuel economy in this segment — 9.2L/100 km city and 6.1L/100 km highway on regular fuel.

The Terrain has one of the longest wheelbases in its class, which translates to generous rear legroom. The three-position reclining rear seats slide 20 cm, although cargo capacity falls shy of the CR-V and RAV4.

General Motors is positioning the GMC Terrain a rung above the Chevy Equinox. As we're seeing with many new GM vehicles, this well-sorted little tyke comes across as very grown up indeed.

iTunes tagging in Fords

NEW TECHNOLOGY iTunes Tagging and HD radio technology are the latest features on Ford's growing list of factory-installed customer conveniences and technologies that will be newly available in 2010.

These vehicles will offer familiar terrestrial radio, HD radio technology, SIRIUS Satellite Radio as well as Internet radio through Ford SYNC from a Bluetooth-streaming audio-capable smartphone.

The world's first implementation of iTunes Tagging in a factory-installed HD radio receiver will also be available.

Through the SYNC system, iTunes Tagging will provide Ford customers with the ability to capture a song they hear on the HD radio receiver for later purchase.

With a simple push of the "Tag" button on the radio display, the song information will be stored in the radio's memory.

Up to 100 tags can be stored on SYNC until the iPod is connected to receive the download of metadata.

When the iPod is then synced to iTunes, a playlist of "tagged" songs will appear.

Customers then can preview and, if desired, purchase and download tagged songs from the iTunes Store.

FROM CARGUIDE

Mitsu Lancer keeps things simple

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 2003 to 2006 Mitsubishi Lancer
VEHICLE TYPE: Compact sedan / wagon
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $6,000 to $11,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: The Lancer is Mitsubishi's entry-level product in the Canadian marketplace. Though a smaller dealer network keeps it from achieving the popularity of cars like Civic and Corolla, the Lancer has earned an enthusiastic following of loyal owners nonetheless.

Second Gear

The current Lancer generation replaced the former after 2006 — meaning there's plenty of selection in the used car market for a last-gen unit. Said last-gen Lancer is a simple, focused, sporty and fun-to-drive compact that was available in both sedan and wagon variants.

The Lancer ES is the entry-level model, which got all of the basics and a set of 14-inch wheels. Power came from a 2.0 litre, 120 horsepower four-cylinder engine with a five-speed stick or four-speed automatic.

The Lancer O-Z Rally stepped things up with some unique wheels, styling and interior upgrades — though it used the same engine as the ES.

Enthusiast shoppers can shop out a Lancer Ralliart for even further upgrades. Key among these is the larger 2.4 litre, 162 horsepower engine with variable valve timing.



WHAT OWNERS LIKE: Visibility, fuel economy, sporty driving manners and uniqueness are among the Lancer's most highly regarded traits. It's not the most popular car in its segment, though many owners enjoy its uniqueness, too.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Owner complaints are fairly few and minor. Owners typically recognize that the Lancer is far from a supermodel amongst its peers, and some owners take issue with some of the "old-school" controls inside the cabin.



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Bugatti bills through the roof

The outrageously expensive Bugatti Veyron may just also be the most pricey to maintain. Many owners say yearly running costs hover around $300,000, according to Autocar. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Who's afraid of Tata Nano?

AutoPilot



Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot



CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warren Harris, Tata Technologies president and COO, unveils the Tata Nano at the Detroit Science Center last week. Tata is mulling over plans to launch the world's cheapest car in North America.

Tata Nano fever has spread to North America. If you're one of the inflicted we can only offer condolences. Because there is no vaccine, and only faint hope that this intriguing car will ever enter our midst.

Nano was initially developed for its home market of India, where the base vehicle sells for about 100,000 rupees — roughly $2,250 Cdn.

But the concept of a simple, small, no frills, inexpensive, ultra fuel-efficient device is compelling to people all over the globe, particularly these days, when there is a heightened emphasis on efficient mobility, and a scary economy.

Nano freaks here first perked up their ears when Tata went on record saying the company recognizes there is definitely a market for Nano in developed countries. It subsequently unveiled a European version at this year's Geneva auto show, with a planned launch in 2011.

And during auto show week in Detroit this month, an example of this European Nano was proudly on display at the Detroit Science Center. Some took this as a sign that Nanos would be soon be consorting on our streets and highways.

Tata is apparently mulling things over, but the odds are certainly stacked against its entry into our markets.

For starters, to meet our safety standards and performance and convenience expectations, the Nano would have to be heavier and more powerful (than 35 hp), and that means less fuel efficiency and a higher sticker price, factors that would quickly dilute the purity of its current compelling formula. We also have a terrible track record when it comes to the long-term acceptance of small, basic, inexpensive cars from far-flung lands.

Remember how we treated Skoda? Lada? Dacia? First we say, "Yeah, sure, come on over for coffee." Then soon after, "Who invited you?" Small cars like Nano are also famous for having small profit margins. To make money on Nano, Tata will need to sell quite a lot of them. But Tata has very limited capacity at present and lots of debt, and here in North America its initial customers might only be the "hipsters" — those who chose products primarily for their ironic cache.

And if there turns out to be a healthy market here for Nano and its ilk in the future, who is say it couldn't be fulfilled by Toyota, Honda or Ford? If Toyota can build a $375,000 Lexus LFA supercar and compete in F1, I'm pretty sure they can cobble together a Nano slayer.

Finally, Mr. Tata noted he got inspired to create and build the Nano, after seeing entire families of six or seven riding together on little scooters.

For those Indian families, a Tata Nano is obviously a safer and more practical alternative. But six or seven on a scooter is not a phenomenon you just see a lot of in this country, whether on Yonge Street in Toronto or on Highway 12 in Saskatchewan.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



If you can see your tire's "wear bars"— little rubber bars that run across the tread — it's probably time to replace that tire.

In safety, your tires come first

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

The most important safety feature on your vehicle is your tires. Only when they lose their grip do your anti-lock brakes, stability control and airbags start doing their job to protect you.

Having too little air in your tires increases their rolling resistance, so you waste fuel. Too much air, and the tires wear unevenly and ride harshly. For best performance, check your tire pressure once a month.

You can buy a gauge in the auto section of any major stores. Inexpensive ones are fine, and it doesn't matter if you get the "stick" type, or one with a dial. To find the recommended pressure, check the owner's manual or the placard inside the door jamb.

Check when the car's been sitting for a few hours, or driven no more than two kilometres. Unscrew the little cap on the valve, and then press the gauge firmly onto the stem. It takes a bit of practice, and you'll probably let out some of the air before you get the hang of it. Then read the number on the gauge.

If it's too low, add some air, pressing the air hose onto the valve. If it's too high, press on the little pin inside the tire valve with the tip of the gauge to release air. Screw the cap back on and check the others.

Worn tread is dangerous: the tire loses its grip, especially on slippery roads. Look for "wear bars," which are little rubber bars that run across the tread.

On a new tire, they're deep inside and can be hard to find, but if they're visible close to the top of the tread, the tire needs replacement. You can also use a penny to check. Tuck it into the tread with the top of the Queen's head facing down. If you can see any part of her head above her eyes, your tires are worn enough to compromise handling.



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- Heated front seats and side mirrors
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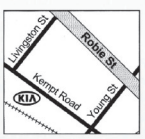
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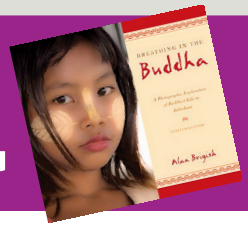
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Aeroplan partners with Offsetters

Groupe Aeroplan has announced a new strategic partnership with Offsetters, a leading Canadian provider of high quality climate solutions. Offsetters creates permanent emissions reductions through carbon offsets programs. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel



Breathing in the culture

Documentary photographer Alan Brigish has just released his second limited edition coffee table book, Breathing in the Buddha: A Photographic Exploration of Buddhist Life in Indochina ($50). The book's luminous images tell two parallel stories. The first explores the daily life of Buddhist people in three cities within Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia, and then reflects the author's extensive travels throughout Burma and gives tips on where to see. The second story is the author's exploration of the Buddha's teachings and how they impact on people's lives. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

St. Lucia resort draped in romance

Valentine's Day is the perfect time of year to give that steamy spa getaway to your partner

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

No surprise that more couples today are stealing away from hectic, stressful daily life to spend "time-out" side-by-side at a spa.

What better way to renew the spark and energy of a romance than with a little private "us" time for hands-on therapy. With V-Day just around the corner, hotels and resorts are ramping up the romance by bringing out the big guns: Champagne, chocolate and roses.

One newly-upgraded resort on the lush island of St. Lucia has positioned itself to dish up romance year-round. The entire concept of Rendezvous, an all-inclusive, boutique resort and spa for couples only, has, in fact, been condensed into three little words and spelled out in its URL — theromanticholiday.com. Located on Malabar Beach about three kilometres from the capital city of Castries, the 17-year-old, 100-room resort re-opened in November following a $15 million US facelift and expansion that included the addition of a spa and gym.

Romance is the name of the game here. In fact, the hotel could be considered quite openly suggestive as elements of their deco get right to the point. For instance, while some boutique hotels hold the green apple as their signature item, here it's the Anthurium — a rather phallic-looking plant. Then there's Rodin's Kissing Couple. Along with CD players and king-size, four poster beds, a replica of the embracing nudes statue is prominently displayed in each guest room.


ANNE DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Rendezvous resort re-opened in November following a $15 million US renovation and facelift.

If you go...

- Airfare is not included in packages.
- All-inclusive resort stays are $330 per couple, per night with no minimum stays.
- At Rendezvous they won't impose activities on you, but they do offer an amazing choice of activities from tennis to golf to archery to volleyball.
- This wonderful garden paradise is perched right on St. Lucia's longest white sand beach,
- They have a state of the art water sports facility, a first class PADI Scuba Centre, two pools, a Jacuzzi and for when you are exhausted, really comfortable sun loungers for you to sink into and snooze away a few hours.

Semi-private island offers quiet retreat

An expansive open-air space encompassing bar, lounge and dining area all overlook pristine Malabar Beach. Le Rendezvous is the only hotel on this beach and the red flags you see planted in the white sugar sand does not signal dangerous waves but that another round of cocktails — or a freshly squeezed passion fruit from the juice bar — is being requested. An intimate finer dining restaurant is called Trysting Place.

It's a quiet, tranquil space — no blaring music, no loud holiday-camp type activities — nicely appointed and service-oriented. General manager Yhasmine Remy says two of the things that make Rendezvous special are "the atmosphere and the personalization of service — meeting the needs without being intrusive."

A short stroll from the lobby, guests find The Water Garden Spa — offering a good selection of services including a variety of massages, scrubs and esthetics.

Outside there's a swimming pool (the second on the property) where, before or after treatments, guests cozy up on moon-shaped, wicker settees. Nearby, the Water Garden is a man-made river winding seductively around semi-private islands with water-waiter service and beds of plants and foliage sourced from around the island to attract birds.

One of the points of distinction at Le Rendezvous is its "departure lounge." Guests catching a late day flight can use Hospitality House which includes the gym, showers and change rooms.

Yasmine says one of her personal goals is to make the departure as special as the arrival.

Part of that ritual is the Wishing Well — when couples leave, Remy explains they are encouraged to make a wish. "Hopefully," she says, "they wish to come back."





Skip the lines, travel early
With the new flight regulations in place delays are occurring like never before. Try flying out early as those flights usually experience fewer delays than later ones. You'll face shorter security lines and less car traffic to the airport if you can do an early start. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Potter ride set for a take-off

JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN
for Metro Canada

Muggles take note. Harry Potter, Hogsmeade Station, Hogwarts School and even butterbeer are coming to Universal Orlando this spring.

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, reputed to cost upwards of $200 million, is in its final construction stages at the Islands of Adventure theme park.

The J.K. Rowling novels and hit movies are being transformed on a 20-acre site into what producer Paul Daurio said will be "an experience unlike ay other."

The veteran of 20 years of magic making with Disney and Universal is responsible for staying true to Rowling's vision while giving visitors an authentic taste of life as a wizard.

"This challenge is similar to the one I had working with Steven Spielberg on Jurassic Park at Universal Hollywood," he told us while overlooking the scaffolding covering Hogwarts Castle.



JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN/FOR METRO CANADA

The Harry Potter exhibit is expected to be one of the world's biggest movie themed parks when it opens.

"The complex storytelling requires that we push every technology available. We're determined to do things here that have never been done before."

The action areas will include a pair of high-speed roller coasters, The Dragon Challenge centered around the Tri-Wizard Tournament from the Goblet of Fire film, plus a family-oriented coaster — Flight of the Hippogriff — at the edge of the Forbidden Forest.

"Kids will have access to their very own wand which will, of course, choose them," Dario said. "The wand and the wizard have to have an affinity for each other. It will be a very magical experience." Zonko's, Honeydukes and

The Wizarding World site is being carved out of an area of Island of Adventure surrounded by a Spiderman 3-D simulator ride, the Incredible Hulk Coaster and Dr. Seuss land for smaller kids.

But the Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey ride is bound to be the major attraction when it opens after extensive planning since 2004.

Where to stay, eat

- An excellent accommodation choice, close to Universal Orlando, is the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel rosenshinglecreek.com. At 1500 rooms it is still very efficient.
- Winter Park, in suburban Orlando, has a restaurant worth finding. Chef John Tan at the Park Plaza Gardens serves outstanding cuisine.

Travel in brief

SAN FRAN The San Francisco Book and the San Francisco Visitors Planning Guide, published by the San Francisco Visitors Bureau, have been given a cover-to-cover makeover for the new year. The guides includes coverage on can't miss museum exhibits, tourist favorites paired with lesser-known local gems. (onlyin sanfrancisco.com)

WORK AND TRAVEL Australia is offering a working holiday visa that provides young Canadian graduates with the opportunity to work, travel and explore Australia for up to one-year. Visit australia.com/workandholiday for more information, including deals, job prospects and assistance help to get travelers started.

OLYMPICS The Vancouver Art Gallery will play a central role in enlivening Vancouver's downtown streets during the 2010 Olympic Games with three major public art installations in the city's most prominent locations. Visit vanartgallery.bc.ca to get the details of who, when and where you can find the events. The VAG will also be displaying a landmark exhibition of drawings by Leonardo da Vinci during the Games.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Frankfurt	from $569 + taxes & fees $300
Rome	from $649 + taxes & fees $350
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California Air + Car from $529 + taxes & fees $128
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Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4-Star	from $815 + taxes & fees $267
La Romana 7 Nights 4-Star	from $845 + taxes & fees $845
Puerto Plata March Break 7 Nights 4-Star	from $887 + taxes & fees $311
Cozumel 7 Nights 4.5-Star	from $1099 + taxes & fees $142

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club metro WEEKLY REWARDS



Kristen Bell Josh Duhamel

Will Arnett Jon Heder Das Shepard Danny DeVito Anjelica Huston

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Efron looking for a Hangover

Zac Efron wants to star in The Hangover sequel because he was such a fan of the first film, which was a worldwide box office smash. He said: "I haven't got that call yet to join them but that would be amazing." FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Legend Measures up

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Few actors have achieved the iconic status of Harrison Ford. The man who cracked Indiana Jones' whip and flew the Millenium Falcon is an idol for generations of movie lovers — and has made Hollywood lots of money.

When asked if he ever predicted his success, Ford humbly admits that it was hardly what he expected. "I thought if I was really lucky I'd get a regular part in a TV series. I had no ambition to be anything more than an employed actor," Ford says.

But despite all his success, the 67-year old Ford admits he is now less interested in finding high profile films to increase his star status than he is in finding roles that interest him as an actor.



Brendan Fraser and Harrison Ford star in Extraordinary Measures.

Extraordinary Measures opens in theatres on Friday

"What I look for is something different from what I've done lately and a role that plays an important part in telling a story that I think would make a good movie," says Ford.

This search for material led Ford to produce Extraordinary Measures, the true story of John Crowley, a man who gave up a successful career to pursue a cure to the rare disease affecting his children. It was Ford who brought the material to the studio to turn it into a film. "I thought Crowley's story was a fantastic example of what courage, conviction, and passion can do to change your life ... I was looking for material to develop in which I would have a role to play. It seemed to me that the best ally for a character was story."

Of course, no matter what the actor has done lately, fans still want to see him return to his most famous roles. Ford admits there's a chance he will be donning Indy's fedora again. "George Lucas is working on a new idea. If it bears fruit and Steven Spielberg and I both respond to it, I'd be happy to do it," says Ford.

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/20/10	31	31	31 ABC	News Center 5	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Modern Family	The Middle	Modern Family	Cougar Town	Ugly Betty (N)
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Old Christine	The Middle	*Along Came Polly* ★★ (2004) Ben Stiller.		
	11	11	11 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (HDTV) (N)		Republic of Doyle (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2 CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	Union-force	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Moment de vérité (SC)		Mirador "Nourrir la bête" (SC)		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32 CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY
	69	69	69 CFTM	TVA nouvelles	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Les Gags	Destinées "Solitudes" (SC)		Dieu merci! (HDTV) (N) (SC)		TVA nouvelles
	6	6	6 CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Deep End "Pilot" (N)		House		Kitchen Nightmares		News Final (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	etalk	Access H.	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds (N)		CTV News
primetime	10	10	10 ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk (N)	Fuelin' Around	Community Matters		
	36	36	36 FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Human Target "Rewind"		Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	Mercy "Wake Up, Bill"		Law & Order: SVU		Jay Leno Show
	29	29	29 NW	(6) Power & Politics		Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Obama-Planet
	4	4	4 PBS-B	PBS NewsHour (N)		Greater Boston	This Old H'se	The Human Spark (DVS)		Great Performances at the Met (N)		
	35	35	35 PBS-D	PBS NewsHour (N)		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	The Human Spark (DVS)		Most of Retirement Plans		Great Perform
	68	68	68 TQS	Guerre clans	Le Mur	Merlin "Le Labyrinthe" (SC)		Flashpoint (SC)		Terminator: Les Chroniques		Guerre clans
news	23	96	96 BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call Tonight		The Close	Market Call	Squeeze Play		Business News
	18	18	18 CNN	(6) The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer (N)				Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54 GOLF	Golf Central	Play Lessons	European Tour	Destination	Champions Tour Preview		PGA Tour Golf Bob Hope Classic, First Round.		
	52	52	52 RSE	Connected W-Prime Time		Hockey 2010 Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game. (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55 SCOR	HSR	Covers Experts	College Basketball South Florida at Cincinnati. (Live)				College Basketball Baylor at Kansas. (Live)		
	45	45	45 SPD	Unique Whips		Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction (HDTV) From Westworld Scottsdale, Ariz. (Live)						
	53	53	53 TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre
family	43	43	43 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	44	44	44 TOON	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
	26	26	26 TREE	Timmy Time	3rd and Bird	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar
	27	27	27 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	iCarly	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Steven Seagal
	70	70	70 APTN	APTN National News (N)		Investigates	Reel Insights Aboriginal artists.		Wings-Canada	*Cobb* ★★ (1994, Biography), Robert Wuhl		
	50	50	50 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)				*Sugar Hill* ★★ (1993, Drama) Wesley Snipes, Michael Wright.				
	37	37	37 BRVO	Wind at My Back		Death at-Opera	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar
	25	25	25 CMT	The Show (N)	CMT Star	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.
	49	49	49 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Little Britain
	153	153	153 COURT	Situation Critical		Psychic Witness		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Declassified		Psych. Witness
	38	38	38 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet (N)		The Colony "Power Struggle"		License to Drill		Mayday
	34	48	48 HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Agent-Agent	Intervention	Property Virgin	Unsellable	House Hunters
	46	46	46 HIST	Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Ice Pilots NWT (N)		Nostradamus Effect (N)		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Pilots NWT
	17	17	17 MM	Year of Teen Power		Make It or Break It		disBAND (N)	Video on Trial	50 Moments	50 Moments	50 Moments
	19	19	19 MMM	mmtop10.ca		The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Entourage
	201	201	201 M1	(6:30) *The Longshots*		(8:10) *My Neighbor's Secret* (2009, Suspense)				*17 Again* ★★ (2009, Comedy) Zac Efron.		
	48	23	23 OLN	Mantracker		Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters
	51	51	51 PEACH	Friends	Name Is Earl	Family Guy	Family Guy	College Basketball Auburn at LSU. (Live)				Law & Order
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:15) *The Client* (1994, Suspense)			(8:20) *Stowaways* (1997, Drama)			*Anaconda* ★ (1997, Suspense), Ice Cube		
	67	67	67 RDI	RDI monde	RDI économie	24 Heures en 60 minutes (SC)				Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie
	39	39	39 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*Abducted: Fugitive for Love* (2007, Drama) Sarah Wynter.				HawthoRNe (N)
	40	40	40 SLICE	What Happen?	Wedding SOS	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	End of Leash	End of Leash	End/Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash
	47	47	47 SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "He's Our You"		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Chuck
	14	14	14 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die
	57	98	98 STAR	etalk	TMZ (N)	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		Dr. Oz Show
	21	21	21 TLC	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Natalee Holloway: Lost		TV Murders: Fiore and Pressly		Hoarders: Buried Alive		Toddler-Tiara
	56	34	34 TROP	Project Runway Canada		Rescue Ink		Hoarders (N)		Hoarders (N)		Parking Wars
	20	20	20 TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Adopte-moi		*UV* (2007, Drama) Jacques Dutronc.			Les Williams	A Table
	28	28	28 V	Emily of New Moon		Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Open All Hours	Doc Martin (N)		Unscripted (N)
	60	97	97 VIVA	Da Vinci's Inquest		Cold Case "8 Years"		Missing A missing woman.		The Closer		Cold Case
	22	22	22 W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny		Dine With Me	Grocery Bag	The Restaurant	The Restaurant	Chef Worthy
	251	251	251 WGN	WGN Evening News		Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Life Unexpected "Pilot"		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		WGN News

Patrick Harris to appear Glee
Neil Patrick Harris is nearing a deal to appear in the May sweeps Glee episode that's being helmed by Joss Whedon. Glee creator Ryan Murphy. EW.COM



Coke doc irks company

Coca-Cola Case links soft-drink giant to human rights abuses

It seems that a documentary critical of soft-drink giant Coca-Cola has left a bitter taste with the company.

The multinational corporation has told a university film network planning to screen The Coca-Cola Case in several cities that the movie contains inaccuracies and violates a confidentiality agreement.

The Montreal-based group, called Cinema Politica, says Coke lawyers sent it a letter earlier this month issuing veiled legal threats if it proceeds with plans to host screenings in Canada, the United States and abroad.

The Coca-Cola Case screens in Halifax on Feb. 2

But the group's programmer, Ezra Winton, says they won't back down, noting their own legal counsel has said they are within their rights to show the film.

The Coca-Cola Case, co-produced by Argus Films of Montreal and the National Film Board of Canada, links Coca-Cola to human rights abuses and anti-union tactics in Colombia and Guatemala.

In the letter to Cinema Politica provided by the group, Faith Gay of New York law firm Quinn Emanuel says "the Coca-Cola Company reserves all of its rights and remedies with regard to any future showing of the film."

Winton said The Coca-Cola Case would begin its tour as planned Monday night at Montreal's Concordia University and continue through March. Other stops include Halifax, Fredericton, Toronto, Saskatoon, Lethbridge, Alta., Vancouver and Yellowknife.

"We talked to the NFB, the distributor and the filmmakers and everything seemed fine and we had some legal advice that we're in our rights to show the film, and so we're going ahead," Winton said from Montreal.

A spokeswoman for Coca-Cola said the company took issue with the film on several points.

"The unfounded allegations made in the documentary have been reviewed by multiple courts in Colombia and the United States, as well by the International Labor Organization, and outside law firms — all concluding that the Coca-Cola bottler employees in Colombia enjoy extensive, normal relations with multiple unions and are provided with safe working conditions there," Kerry Kerr said Monday in an email.

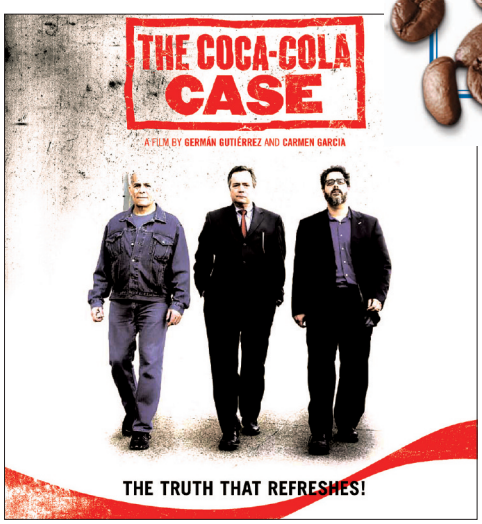
Winton said The Coca-Cola Case, directed by Carmen Garcia and German Gutierrez, screened without incident at the Montreal International Documentary Festival last November.

He added that Coca-Cola's legal objections are drawing more publicity to the group's planned screenings.

"The amount of traffic onto the Coca-Cola tour page on the Cinema Politica website is just massive . . . and the amount of activity on our Facebook group, the amount of emails, the amount of stuff online, blogs and elsewhere indicates to us that we're going to have a big turnout," Winton said.

"It's the most attention that we've ever got for any of the films that have screened throughout the network."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Montreal-based group Cinema Politica, which produced the documentary The Coca-Cola Case, have recieved veiled legal threats regarding the screening of the film.

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Jury to decide suspect's fate in Letterman case

COURT A jury should get to decide whether a TV producer's dealings with David Letterman were attempted blackmail or just hard-nosed business, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon refused to throw out an attempted grand larceny charge against the producer, Robert "Joe" Halderman. The ruling puts the case on a path toward trial, which could bring testimony from the Late Show host about events in his private life that have been pushed into public view.

The case spurred Letterman to tell viewers in October that he had slept with women on his staff.

Prosecutors say Halderman demanded $2 million to keep quiet about the talk-show host's affairs. Halderman says he was just offering Letterman a chance to buy — and keep private — a thinly veiled screenplay about Letterman's life.

Whether Halderman's conduct amounted to commerce or crime "is a classic example of an issue that is best left for a trial jury to decide," Solomon wrote.

The 52-year-old Halderman, a producer for CBS' 48 Hours Mystery, could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted. A trial date could be set at his next court appearance March 9.

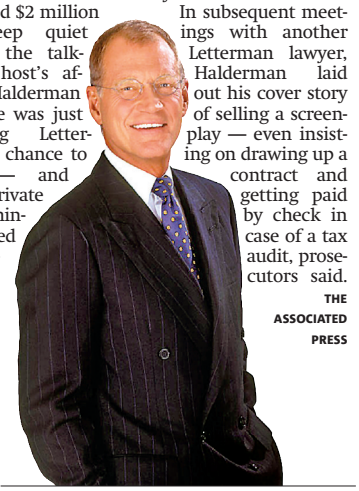
Defence lawyer Gerald Shargel said he was "perfectly willing to put it in front of a trial jury." A Letterman lawyer has said the comedian would willingly testify.

Prosecutors say the financially strapped Halderman threatened to ruin Letterman's reputation with information he had gleaned from his then-girlfriend's diary. It described her relationship with Letterman, her boss, authorities said.

Letterman married longtime girlfriend Regina Lasko last March. They began dating in 1986 and have a six-year-old son.

In subsequent meetings with another Letterman lawyer, Halderman laid out his cover story of selling a screenplay — even insisting on drawing up a contract and getting paid by check in case of a tax audit, prosecutors said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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SECOND CUP

China pulls Avatar 2-D version from theatres

FILM Chinese censors have ordered the 2-D version of Avatar pulled from screens across the country, apparently to reduce competition for the homegrown film industry.

The 3-D and IMAX versions of James Cameron's global hit will continue their run into February. But Saturday marks the end of the 2-D run of the science fiction epic, which also dramatizes the forced eviction of a people — a politically sensitive subject in China.

China Film Group, the state-run domestic distributor of the Hollywood blockbuster, has reportedly ordered the move after receiving instructions from China's censors. Repeated calls to the distributor's spokesman Tuesday went unanswered.

Reportedly, part of the reason is to reduce competition for China's homegrown films, like the state-backed biopic of Confucius, the ancient Chinese philosopher, which opens this Thursday.

There is also sensitivity to the movie's plot, which revolves around the forced evictions of the alien Na'vi race by humans — a story line that some have said draws unflattering comparisons to China's own, often brutal removal of millions of residents to make way for property developers.

Columnist Huang Hung penned a commentary in the official English-language China Daily, saying the film had struck a chord with Chinese viewers.

"All the forced removal of old neighbourhoods in China makes us the only earthlings today who can really feel the pain of the Na'vi," she wrote.

Avatar is already the biggest box-office success in China, pulling in more than $44 million US as of Jan 12. It quickly surpassed last year's 2012 and Transformers 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Greased lightning

Grease actor Jeff Conaway, who was last seen trying to get sober in Celebrity Rehab, was admitted to a Los Angeles hospital on Monday with serious injuries after falling down a staircase at his home, popeater.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

RICKY MARTIN is pitching in, **ELLEN DEGENERES** does in fact want to brag, **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER** makes motivating sound threatening, and **KATY PERRY** is perplexed by rain in Los Angeles.

@ricky_martin on my way to #Haiti

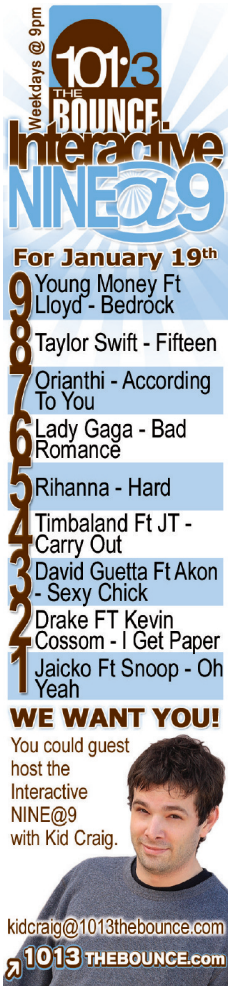
@TheEllenShow I don't want to brag, but Keith Urban serenaded me today.

@schwarzenegger Maria and I are pumping up all the great kids volunteering at Van Nuys Middle School

@katyperry Do i shower or just stand out side for one minute?

METRO WORLD NEWS





Barbie looks — and brain?

IF NOT ADDICTED, WHAT DO YOU CALL IT? Under fire for the staggering number of cosmetic procedures she's recently undergone, Heidi Montag now says she isn't addicted to plastic surgery — she just wants to be as beautiful as she can be, inside and out, people.com reports.

Asked on Tuesday's Good Morning America for a response to those who say she is addicted, Montag, 23, replied, "I would say that none of those people know me at all, and that's just a judgment. I'm not addicted. If I were addicted, I would have had 10 plastic surgeries."

What she had, actually, was 10 procedures on the same day, back in November. This followed a previous surgery three years ago. In a recent interview with People, Montag admitted she was "beyond obsessed" with having work done.

Asked why she would want to look like a Barbie doll, Montag replied, "I think I look like myself. I think I just look like a different, improved version of myself."

Many observers are upset with the message that's sent to young girls when an already attractive 23-year-old chooses to undergo so many alterations. But Montag says it's her life — and in her line of work, alterations can be necessary.

"I'm in a different industry," she said, "and I have to do things that are going to make me happy at the end of the day."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Another shining star for Haiti

HOLLYWOOD'S CAUSE CELEB? Golden Globe winner Sandra Bullock has turned anything but a Blind Side to the situation in Haiti — and has donated $1 million US in relief aid to the victims of the Jan. 12 earthquake, people.com reports.

Bullock's contribution matches those by George Clooney and Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, reports Variety.

The trade paper also notes that Gisele Bündchen has pledged $1.5 million to Haiti, while Madonna says she has given $250,000

The gifts come as the star roster for Friday's multi-network Hope for Haiti telethon, organized and to be co-hosted by Clooney and Wyclef Jean, continues to expand.

Among those set to perform now include Christina Aguilera, Bono, Alicia Keys, Sting and Justin Timberlake. Tom Cruise and Julia Roberts have already been announced as answering the phones during the telethon.

The special will air live from Los Angeles and New York at 8 p.m. ET on MTV, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, FOX, and BET among other networks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



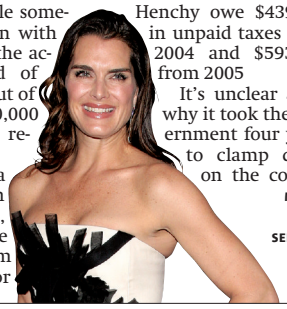
Brooke is on the IRS hook

FOR THE PRICE OF A BIRKIN BAG It appears Brooke Shields has a little something in common with Nicolas Cage — the actress is accused of stiffing the IRS out of more than $10,000 US, TMZ.com reports..

According to a federal tax lien filed on Dec. 31, 2009 — the same day Uncle Sam smacked Cage for $6 million — Shields and her husband Christopher Henchy owe $4391.70 in unpaid taxes from 2004 and $5932.50 from 2005

It's unclear as to why it took the government four years to clamp down on the couple.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Babies love tour buses

AS WELL AS DIAMONDS, CASHMERE AND CRISTAL Beyonce Knowles admits she's looking forward to starting a family, but she and Jay-Z don't have any specific plans as of yet.

"I definitely want to have a child, but I know from my nephew it's a lot," she tells Allure magazine. "I hope that those things will just happen naturally. I still haven't had time to relax."

The singer also admits she's concerned for her curves. "I always say, 'I don't want to lose my curves.' I like firm curves," she says. "You can never do enough squats, you can never do enough sit-ups. I like for women to look feminine."

METRO WORLD NEWS



For only $1,500 a week you could help support this girl

AND HER SHOE COLLECTION Britney Spears has reportedly found a way around the spending restrictions placed on her by her father, according to TMZ.

Sources say the singer bought a pair of boots at a Steve Madden store in L.A. using a bodyguard's credit card.

When the clerk gave her a hard time about the name on the card, Spears reportedly insisted it was a corporate card.

According to the Web site, Spears' dad caps her credit card spending at $1,500 US a week.

METRO WORLD NEWS





Baby Daddy?

STARS DON'T GO THROUGH MENOPAUSE, RIGHT? Madonna is reportedly looking to expand her family by having a child with Jesus Luz, her Brazilian male model boyfriend, according to the Sun.

"She knows that, at 51, it's going to be harder to conceive naturally," a source says. "But she is Olympic-athlete fit and is ready for the challenge."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Her rocker gives her a rock

A DIAMOND, PEOPLE! NOT THE OTHER KIND OF ROCK Kate Moss' boyfriend, Jamie Hince, surprised her with quite the birthday present by meeting up with her in the Caribbean and popping the question, according to Hollyscoop.

"Kate was stunned," a source says. "Jamie called her up and told her not to come home. He said he was flying out to Mustique. He had carefully picked a ring and chose her birthday to propose. It was the first time they had been alone together in quite a while and it was extremely emotional."

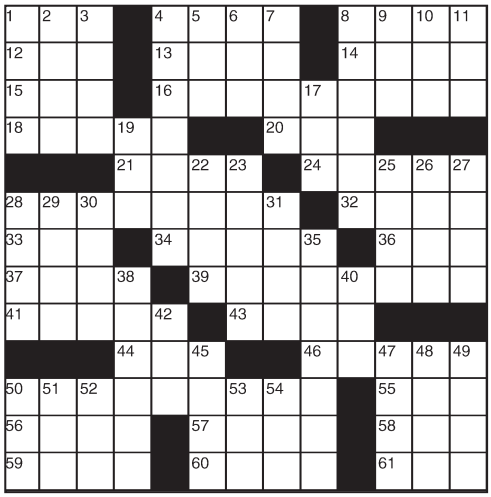
METRO WORLD NEWS



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Today 90% 3-5cm of snow -1° / -5°
Thursday 40% Flurries -1° / -9°
Friday Sunny -4° / -9°
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Take Five



ACROSS

1 Pretense
4 Sit for a snapshot
8 Sleeping
12 Also
13 Press
14 "Arrivederci"
15 Lummox
16 Triangular Halloween treat
18 Use tweezers
20 Witness
21 Brewery products
24 Despots
28 Measures of luminous intensity
32 Fat
33 Mimic
34 Novelist Ephron
36 Grazing area
37 Anthropologist Margaret
39 Openly
41 Added
43 Martial-arts school
44 Sprite
46 Expand a computer file
50 February 2nd
55 Before
56 Enthusiastic
57 Right on the map?
58 — Francisco
59 Took the bus
60 Fling
61 Potent stick

DOWN

1 Surmounting
2 Brat's stocking stuffer
3 Vegan's protein source
4 Intoxicated
5 "... man — mouse?"
6 Trinity member
7 Tackles' teammates
8 Way in
9 Resume, for short
10 Listener
11 Dress in
17 Nevertheless
19 Scoundrel
22 A util.
23 Dieter's entree
25 "— Lang Syne"
26 Fishing rod attachment
27 Remain
28 Arrived
29 Pinnacle
30 Spruced up
31 China (Pref.)
35 Tweaks
38 Coat with flour
40 Charged bit
42 Every last crumb
45 Poetic measures
47 Vivacity
48 Persia, now
49 Confined, with "up"
50 Gridlock component
51 Past
52 Affirmative action?
53 Long March leader
54 Foolish one

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

4		1		3	2			8
	7		6					4
	2		4				3	
2							4	
		5	1		3	9		
	3							6
	5				1		8	
8					4		2	
9			5	2		7		

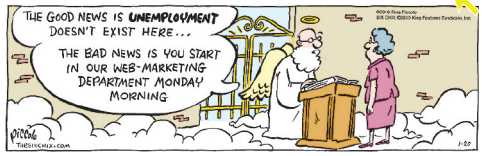
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

S	T	E	P		F	L	A	T		T	E	A		
I	O	T	A		A	I	D	E		R	U	B		
S	O	C	C	E	R	M	O	M		A	R	E		
			K	N	E	E		P	I	C	O	T		
C	A	P	E	S			D	E	S	K				
A	L	O	T		R	E	U	S	A	B	L	E		
P	A	L		S	H	E	E	T		A	U	G		
T	R	O	U	P	E	R	S		A	L	S	O		
		S	T	O	A			H	I	L	T	S		
A	S	H	E	N		B	A	A	L					
L	E	I		G	O	L	F	W	I	D	O	W		
O	R	R		E	V	E	R		N	O	D	E		
E	A	T		D	A	D	O		G	O	E	S		

9	8	7	6	3	5	4	1	2
4	3	5	7	1	2	8	9	6
6	2	1	8	9	4	5	7	3
3	6	2	9	4	8	7	5	1
1	9	8	2	5	7	6	3	4
5	7	4	1	6	3	2	8	9
2	5	6	3	8	9	1	4	7
7	4	3	5	2	1	9	6	8
8	1	9	4	7	6	3	2	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Golden Kebabs with Zesty Mayonnaise

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
2 tsp (10 mL) turmeric
2 garlic cloves, crushed
4 skinless boneless chicken breasts
3 nectarines, halved and pitted
12 baby peppers, halved
2 scallions, chopped
Grated zest of 1/2 lemon
6 3/4 tbsp (100 mL) mayonnaise
1/3 cup (75 mL) plain low-fat yogurt
lemon juice, to taste

METHOD:

1. Put olive oil in bowl. Add turmeric, garlic and seasoning. Cut each chicken breast into six chunks, then add to mixture and toss to coat. Set aside.
2. Preheat broiler to high. Cut each nectarine half into four wedges, for 24 pieces in total. Thread chicken, nectarines and peppers onto eight metal skewers, nestling wedges of nectarine inside pepper halves and alternating with chicken chunks. Put kebabs into large, shallow, ovenproof dish.
3. Broil kebabs 5 minutes per side. Chicken should be cooked through and peppers and edges of nectarines should be well browned, with charring in places.
4. In small bowl, mix scallions and lemon zest with mayonnaise and yogurt, and add lemon juice to taste. Serve dollops of dressing beside kebabs.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
As from today you will find it easier to get along with other people, both in your work environment and in your private life.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You cannot afford to get upset about things that require a practical rather than an emotional response.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may not have been looking or feeling your best of late but don't worry because within a matter of days you will be back on top of the world again.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If you have been living beyond your means in recent weeks then you will have to tighten your belt considerably as from today.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You will make some interesting new friends over the next few weeks while the Sun is moving through your opposite sign of Aquarius.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Get a grip on your working routine. Draw up a schedule and stick to it. It may be the last thing you want to do but wanting does not come into it.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be adventurous, be courageous, and above all believe that you have what it takes to be the best at what you do.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Make allowances for people who are more emotional than you. Not everyone possesses your self-control.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try not to see every encounter as a battle that must be won. You can easily turn enemies into allies and foes into friends, simply by talking to them.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
The Sun leaves your birth sign today but you don't have to leave the good times behind. In many ways your luck will improve over the next few weeks.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Even if your actual birthday is not for some days or weeks yet it will feel like your birthday over the next 24 hours, so by all means celebrate.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
The most important thing now is that you make a mental effort to look on the bright side, even if what happens today is not entirely to your liking.

Appy New Year!
Metro
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This day in history

1265: In Westminster, the first English parliament conducts its first meeting held by Simon de Montfort in the Palace of Westminster, now also known colloquially as the "Houses of Parliament."
1783: The Kingdom of Great Britain signs a peace treaty with France and Spain, officially ending hostilities in the Revolutionary War.
1885: L.A. Thompson patents the roller coaster.
1961: John F. Kennedy is inaugurated as the youngest man, and first-ever Roman Catholic, to become elected President of the United States.

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WINTER'S HERE 4X4



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DIESEL



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STK# 9RC0108

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DIESEL



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